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THE TALE OF TWO STATES

Road to victory

BJP's welfarism found takers, while tribals rallied behind INDIA bloc

NEWS » PAGE 8

How should India tackle its diabetes load

FAQ » PAGE 13

JVP: From a rebel movement to rulers

PROFILES » PAGE 14

Jaiswal and Rahul in sizzling stand in Perth

SPORT » PAGE 16

Mahayuti sweeps Maharashtra, INDIA bloc keeps Jharkhand

The ruling front wins 234 of the 288 seats; BJP alone bags 132; formation of new govt. likely in three days

MAHARASHTRA

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

In an electoral sweep which Maharashtra has not seen since the 1980s, the ruling Mahayuti alliance on Saturday won 234 of the 288 seats in the Assembly election, with the BJP emerging as the single largest party, winning 132 seats on its own.

The Mahayuti is slated to form the government within the next three days, with the MLAs-elect being asked to gather in Mumbai immediately. Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to be in Mumbai on Sunday as the central observer of the party, a role he had played after the 2014 State election as well.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi was routed and won just 50 seats. The Maharashra Assembly is not likely to have a Leader of the Opposition this time, as none of the three MVA parties have been able to win even 10% of the total seats. The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) won the highest number of seats (20), followed by the Congress with 16, and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) with 10, all below the 29 seats mandated for the LoP position, as per legislative rules.

No decision on CM yet

The current Assembly's term ends on November 26. The MLAs-elect of outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena held a preliminary meeting in Mumbai on Saturday evening, giving their chief the right to take all decisions on government formation. Their meeting will be held on Sunday after all the MLAs-elect reach Mumbai.

"The leaders of all the three [Mahayuti] parties will take a call on the Chief Minister's position. No decision has been taken as yet," a senior BJP leader said. However, BJP sources indicated that the party will not easily give up its stake for the Chief Minister position this time.

Several Congress stalwarts, including former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, eight-term MLA Balasaheb Thorat, and Yashomati Thakur, were defeated in this election.

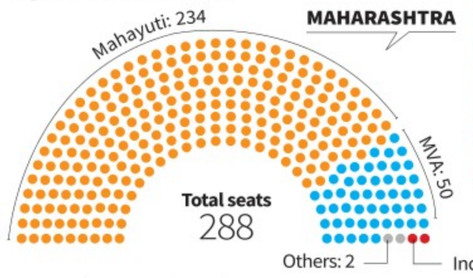
The Pawar family battle for the Baramati seat was decisively won by Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar with a lead of over one lakh votes against his nephew, Yugendra Pawar.

The Opposition has raised questions about the results, with Uddhav Thackeray, Ramesh Chennithala, and Sanjay Raut terming the results "unbelievable".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Huge win in a big State

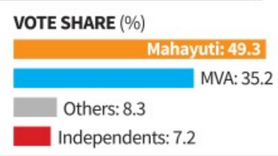
The Mahayuti alliance has secured a majority by winning 234 out of 288 seats, while the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won 50 seats



Mahayuti: BJP: 132 (26.8%), SHS: 57 (12.4%), NCP: 41 (9%), JSS: 2 (0.6%), Rashtriya Yuva Swabhiman Party: 1 (0.3%), RSVA: 1 (0.2%)

MVA: SS(UBT): 20 (10%), INC: 16 (12.4%), NCP(SP): 10 (10%), SP: 2 (0.4%), PWP: 1 (0.8%), CPI(M): 1 (0.3%)

In bloom: BJP women workers hold lotuses while celebrating NDA's win in Nagpur. PTI



Data as of 12.15 a.m.

JMM-led alliance triumphs in 56 of 81 seats; BJP-led NDA restricted to 24

JHARKHAND

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led INDIA bloc on Saturday returned to power in Jharkhand for the second consecutive time, winning 56 of the 81 Assembly seats in the State.

JMM leader and Chief Minister Hemant Soren thanked people for the spectacular performance of the ruling coalition, saying "their support has given us more strength to build a new Jharkhand. Together we will make Jharkhand one of the leading States of the country".

The JMM won 34 seats, the Congress 16, the RJD four, and the CPI(ML) Liberation two. This is also the JMM's best electoral performance in the State.

In the NDA, the BJP won 21 seats, while the All Jharkhand Students Union, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), and the Janata Dal(U) bagged one seat each.

Mr. Soren won the Barhait seat by defeating the BJP's Gamilyel Hembrom. His wife, Kalpana Soren, won the Gandey seat by defeating the BJP's Muniya Devi. The prominent faces who won include Nishat Alam, wife of jailed Congress leader Alamgir Alam, from Pakur; Mr. Soren's younger brother Basant Soren, from Dumka; BJP State president Babulal Marandi, from Dhanwar; Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto, from Nala; and Champai Soren, from Seraikela.

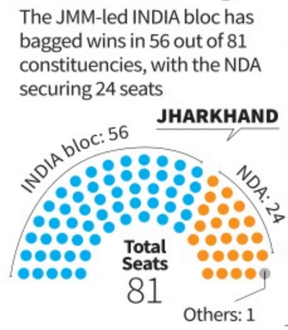
A new political party, the Jharkhand Loktantrik Kranitkari Morcha, led by Jairam Tiger Mahto, won one seat.

The rhetoric of "infiltration by Bangladeshis", corruption, and demographic changes in the Santhal Pargana region appears to have backfired for the BJP, with none of these issues bringing it favour. The result is a humiliating defeat for the BJP as its top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, had campaigned in the State.

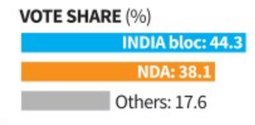
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

INDIA emerges as victor

The JMM-led INDIA bloc has bagged wins in 56 out of 81 constituencies, with the NDA securing 24 seats



Poll power: Congress supporters in Ranchi celebrate INDIA bloc's win in the Assembly election. ANI



INDIA bloc: JMM: 34 (23.4%), INC: 16 (15.6%), RJD: 4 (3.4%), CPI(ML)(L): 2 (1.9%)

NDA: BJP: 21 (33.2%), AJSUP: 1 (3.5%), JD(U): 1 (0.8%), LJP(RV): 1 (0.6%)

Data as of 12.15 a.m.

Ruling parties win big in Assembly byelections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the Assembly bypolls across various States, the ruling parties and alliances dominated, with the NDA winning in Assam, Bihar, and Meghalaya. The BJP triumphed in Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, the Congress in Karnataka, and AAP in Punjab. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP and its allies took seven seats, while the Trinamool Congress won all six seats in West Bengal.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 10

Priyanka wins Wayanad with a huge margin

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress won two Lok Sabha seats as byelection results were announced on Saturday.

In Wayanad, party leader sPriyanka Gandhi Vadra won by a margin of 4,10,931 votes.

Ravindra Chavan won Nanded in Maharashtra by a margin of 1,457 votes.

'THUMPING MAJORITY' » PAGE 7

Bypolls: Congress bags all three seats in State

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress in Karnataka put up an impressive show in the bypolls to the Legislative Assemby by winning all the three seats of Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur, results of which were declared on Saturday. The polling was held on November 13.

The Congress successfully overcame the anti-incumbency factor it faced in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and decimated the BJP-JD (S) alliance in a direct fight in these constituencies. With these results, the Congress tally in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly has increased to 137. The Congress wrested the Channapatna seat in the Old Mysore region, where C.P. Yogeshwar was its candidate, and Shiggaon seat, where Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan was its candidate, from the JD (S) and the BJP, respectively. It retained the Sandur seat, where it had nominated E. Annapurna.

Congress supporters celebrating near the counting centre at Ramanagara after the victory of party candidate C.P. Yogeshwar in Channapatna Assembly byelection on Saturday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

With these defeats, two former Chief Ministers – H.D. Kumaraswamy and Basavaraj Bommai – have lost their families' hold in a battle of prestige in Channapatna and Shiggaon constituencies, respectively.

The key takeaway of the mandate is that it is a clear endorsement of the "guarantees", largely by women voters, who benefited from the Shakti and Gruhalakshmi schemes.

The controversy related to waqf properties raised by the BJP during the run-up to the poll campaigning seems to have consolidated the Muslim vote in favour of the Congress, particularly in Channapatna and Shiggaon, rather than work in favour of the BJP as it had hoped.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6
RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGES 6 & 7

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U.S. SEC summons Adani, his nephew

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

Adani Group founder and chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani have been summoned to explain their stand on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegation of paying $265 million (₹2,200 crore) in bribes to secure lucrative solar power contracts.

Within 21 days

Mr. Adani and Mr. Sagar have been asked to reply to the SEC within 21 days.

"Within 21 days after service of this summons on you...you must serve on the plaintiff (SEC) an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," said a November 21 notice sent through the New York Eastern District Court.

"If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint," it added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Deadlock over climate finance pushes COP29 to brink of failure

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Despite running into overtime, very little headway had been achieved at the UN climate summit in Baku on Saturday in terms of bringing developed and developing countries any closer to agreeing to a new global financial target, called the New Collective Quantitative Goal, for a moonshot at preventing a runaway rise in global temperatures. The COP29 conference was scheduled to end on Friday.

Activists protesting at COP29 in Azerbaijan on Friday. AP

Negotiators who had been up since Friday were expecting another sleepless night on Saturday, one of them told *The Hindu*, after the latest attempt by hosts Azerbaijan failed to bridge the gap between blocs of developing and developed countries. In fact, matters were so fractious that members of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) bloc and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) said they would walk out of negotiations.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
DEAL ON CARBON TRADING » PAGE 15

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Soul song: A devotee is overcome with emotion as he sings Tamil Tirumurai hymns during a procession.

Holy parade: Devotees witness a procession of the deity Peruvudaiyar, to the accompaniment of music from ancient instruments.

Hub of culture: People gather to watch the cultural programmes performed during the *Sadhaya Vizha* celebration in honour of Chola emperor Raja Raja Cholan I in the iconic Brihadeeswarar Temple.

A mighty king remembered

The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I is celebrated every year during the *Sadhaya Vizha* in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu

B. Velankanni Raj
velankanniraj.b@thehindu.co.in

The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I is celebrated with unparalleled fervour and devotion every year during the *Sadhaya Vizha* in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu. Born as Arulmozhi Varman in 947 CE, he rose to become one of history's most illustrious and visionary rulers. Revered as Raja Raja the Great, he inherited the legacy of his ancestors and crafted an empire that flourished both militarily and culturally. His life is famously depicted in Kalki Krishnamurthy's 1955 Tamil novel *Ponniyin Selvan,* which was later adapted to a motion picture series under the same title.

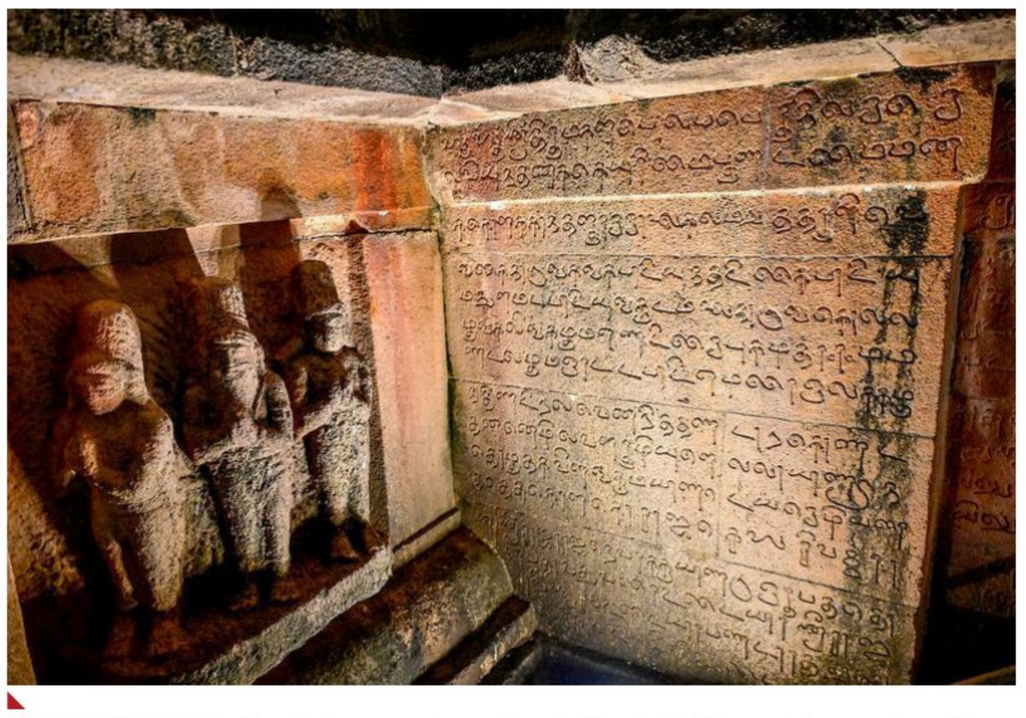
Raja Raja's reign, from 985 to 1014 CE, was marked by military prowess and profound administrative vision.

The *Sadhaya Vizha*, which takes place in the Tamil month of Aippasi (mid-October to mid-November), honours the legacy of a ruler whose influence stretched to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The heart of the celebration is at the iconic Brihadeeswarar Temple (also known as the Big Temple). While the Tamil Nadu government has made several attempts to have a statue of Raja Raja Chola installed inside the temple, it remains outside the temple compound because the Central government says nothing should be done to disturb the original nature of the temple. The temple itself, a masterpiece of Chola architecture, is a tribute to Raja Raja's devotion to Lord Shiva, revered here as Peruvudaiyar.

The event begins with religious ceremonies, including the sacred *abhishekam* (holy bath) to Lord Peruvudaiyar, followed by the mesmerising *perundeepa vazhipaadu*, where lamps are waved in reverence, and the *swami purappadu*, a procession that carries the deity through the temple. Devotees from all over the region gather to partake in the two-day festivities, which feature cultural performances such as classical dance and hymn singing by *odhuvars*. Beyond Thanjavur, the celebrations stretch to Udaiyalur near Kumbakonam, where Raja Raja Chola's mortal remains are believed to be interred.

Brihadeeswarar Temple is also a trove of Tamil inscriptions, skillfully engraved on stone. The inscriptions detail the temple's construction, daily rituals, offerings, and special worship ceremonies. This inscription, running to 107 paragraphs, is said to describe how Raja Raja Chola personally oversaw the temple's planning and construction, recorded the gifts offered by him, his sister Kundavai, his queens, and others, and outlined the rituals to be performed.

(Text by: Geetha Srimathi)



Glimpses of the past: Tamil inscriptions seen on the temple wall, giving details of the temple's construction, daily rituals, offerings, and special ceremonies.

Three persons convicted of ₹12.63-crore bank fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge and Special Judge for CBI cases on Friday convicted three men of committing ₹12.63 crore bank fraud.

The accused have been identified as H.M. Swamy and Vittal Das, former branch managers of Syndicate Bank in Mandya and Kollegal respectively, and Asadulla Khan, a private individual.

Sentencing details

While Swamy got a three-year imprisonment with a fine of ₹1.5 lakh, Das got a one-year imprisonment with ₹50,000 fine, and Asadulla got a three-year imprisonment with a fine of ₹50 lakh.

The CBI registered a case against the trio in 2009 on a written complaint by the chief vigilance officer of Syndicate Bank.

They made fraudulent transactions in the sanction and disbursal of loans under the 'Synd. Jai Kisan Loan' and other credit facilities.

They grossly misused their authority and conspired among themselves, causing substantial financial loss to the bank. After the investigation, the CBI filed a charge sheet in November 2010 against the accused.

BMTC plans to set up new charging stations

Its fleet of electric buses has crossed the 1,000 mark, and is projected to nearly double by 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Power break: Currently, the BMTC has 6,158 buses, of which 1,027 are electric. The charging stations will be set up at locations where drivers take scheduled breaks. FILE PHOTO

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is now planning to establish new charging stations for its fleet of electric buses which has crossed the 1,000 mark, and is projected to nearly double by 2025.

Currently, the BMTC has 6,158 buses, of which 1,027 are electric. The charging stations will be set up at locations where drivers take scheduled breaks.

Elaborating on the initiative, a senior BMTC official said: "We have already installed EV chargers at various depots in the city. With the anticipated increase in electric buses, we are planning to set up additional EV charging stations at Traffic and Transit Management Centres (TTMCs), depots, and locations where the bus crew takes a break. Drivers are provided with a 45-minute charge window during their break, allowing buses to recharge easily."

The electric bus fleet comprises 637 buses manufactured by TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Motors.

These buses were procured under the Union government's FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) Scheme.

Additionally, the BMTC operates 300 12-metre-long e-buses manufactured by Ashok Leyland subsidiary Switch Mobility under the FAME-II Scheme, and 90 nine-metre-long e-buses produced by the JBM Group under the Smart Cities Mission.

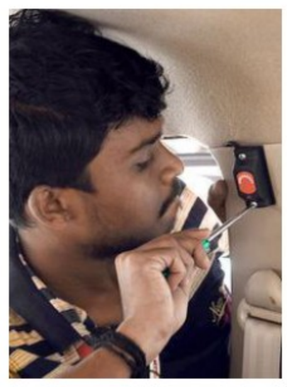
All electric buses in the fleet are non-AC and procured under a gross cost contract (GCC) model, where manufacturers are responsible for providing both the driving crew and maintaining the vehicles.

Officials said that the environmental benefits of the initiative are already evident as the operation of these 1,000 electric buses has saved 51,000 litres of diesel and prevented the emission of 1.38 lakh kg of carbon dioxide (CO_2) daily. These EV buses do not emit harmful gases or smoke into the air, significantly reducing emissions on a daily basis.

Looking ahead, the BMTC is also preparing to introduce air-conditioned electric buses into its fleet. This April, it awarded OHM Global Mobility, a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, the contract to supply 320 air-conditioned electric buses under the GCC lease model. Additionally, the BMTC plans to replace its aging Volvo buses on Vajra and Vayu Vajra airport routes with air-conditioned electric buses.

Transport unions urge govt. to reconsider VLTD mandate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The State government mandated last December that all public transport and national permit vehicles must install VLTDs and emergency panic buttons by this November 30. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As the November 30 deadline nears for installing vehicle location tracking devices (VLTD) and emergency panic buttons in public service and nationally permitted goods vehicles in Karnataka, transport unions representing cab, bus, and truck operators are urging the government to reconsider the mandate.

They argue that the high cost of these devices and a lack of awareness have made it difficult for many vehicle owners to comply with the requirement.

To bolster passenger safety, the State government mandated last December that all public transport and vehicles with national permit must have VLTDs and emergency panic buttons by this November 30.

The devices were intended to improve location monitoring and provide a safety feature in emergencies. However, despite this grace period, many vehicle owners have not installed the devices, citing financial constraints and limited knowledge about the rule.

According to Transport Department sources, out of 6,04,000 vehicles only approximately 10% have been found to be compliant with the mandate so far.

Cab operators claim that without these devices Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) are withholding fitness certificates for hundreds of vehicles, affecting daily operations. "As per the rule, RTOs will deny the renewal of fitness certificates for public service vehicles if owners do not install the required devices," a Transport Department official stated.

The mandate requires public transport operators to purchase the devices only from one of 13 government-approved vendors, who offer the equipment at a price of ₹7,599 (excluding GST).

Transport unions argue that this restriction limits competition, forcing operators to pay inflated costs.

K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, expressed concern over the financial impact on vehicle owners.

"The mandate to replace existing devices with VLTD and panic buttons places a financial burden on vehicle owners and drivers. Many cab operators have already installed GPS devices voluntarily to improve passenger safety and deter illegal activities. However, being required to purchase additional VLTDs at high prices from specific vendors adds extra strain, particularly on smaller, independent cab drivers," he explained.

In the open market, the cost of similar devices ranges between ₹4,000 and ₹5,000, a substantial difference compared to the ₹7,599 charged by approved vendors.

Ramesh K., a cab driver operating in Whitefield, questioned the necessity of paying nearly double for the equipment. "The Transport Department is asking us to pay almost ₹8,000 for a kit that costs much less in the market. Why should we bear these high costs? They should ensure that such regulations do not place unnecessary financial burdens on us," he said.

He further explained that while he understands the need for safety measures, the added expense was difficult to manage, especially given the rising fuel prices and maintenance costs.

CID Dy. SP booked under Prevention of Corruption Act after businesswoman's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after a 35-year-old businesswoman died by suicide after alleging harassment from CID officials, the Banashankari police on Friday registered an FIR against the Deputy Superintendent of Police, charging her under the Prevention of Corruption Act and with abetment to suicide.

Sangeetha S., sister of the deceased Jeeva S., in her complaint to the police, alleged that the accused officer, Kanakalakshmi, summoned Jeeva to appear in person on November 14 in connection with an alleged scam in the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation despite a High Court order to conduct investigation through VC.

She further alleged that the officer in question forced her to disrobe on the pretext of checking whether she had carried any "cyanide" with her and added that Jeeva was mentally harassed and the CID official refused to accept the documents Jeeva wanted to submit. Instead, the officer demanded ₹25 lakh, she has alleged in the complaint, further adding that the officer also visited Jeeva's shop and humiliated and harassed her publicly, which led her to end her life.

The alleged scam being probed by the CID concerns the misuse of crores of rupees two years ago.

This is not the first case where a senior officer has been accused of harassment recently. CCB officials were in the dock after an accused in the rave party raid in Electronics City accused officials of demanding money and sexual favours from the accused. Based on an SHRC notice, a probe has been ordered in this regard. In another instance, two inspectors working in the city had been accused of harassment and favouritism by the junior staff.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kannada Hirakshana Samiti celebrated Karnataka Rajyotsava at the Electronics Division of BHEL on Friday.

Shyam Babu, Executive Director of Electronics Division, inaugurated the event.

Attendees

M. Krishnappa, Vijayanagara MLA; C.R. Chandrashekhar, renowned psychiatrist and Padma Shri awardee; H.N. Arathi, journalist and poet; Ramesh Aravind, actor-director-producer, and K. Suchendra Prasad, actor-director, were the chief guests.

Punjab State Sports Council
Punjab Yuva Bhawan Sector 42 A, Chandigarh.
(Tel. No. 0172-2606400, Email-sportsxen@gmail.com)

No. 2653 Dated: 22/11/2024

Punjab State Sports Council, Punjab Yuva Bhawan Sector 42-A, Chandigarh invites online bids for the following works:-

(1) Providing and Installation of 8 Lane, 400 mtr, Synthetic Athletic Track (Full PUR Full EPDM) at Multipurpose Stadium, Sector 78, Mohali Punjab (Bid No. 2/2024).

(2) Replacement of Global Category Hockey Astro Turf (FIH Approved) at Senior Balbir Singh, International Hockey Stadium, Sector-63, Mohali (Punjab) (Bid No. 3/2024).

(3) Replacement of Global Category Hockey Astro Turf (FIH Approved) at Govt. Rajindra College, Bathinda Distt Bathinda Punjab (Bid No. 4/2024).

(4) Replacement of Global Category Hockey Astro Turf (FIH Approved) at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana (Bid No. 5/2024).

(5) Providing and Installation of PU Flooring in the Sports Indoor Halls at Sri Mukatsar Sahib, Village Badal Distt. Sri. Mukatsar Sahib, Ferozepur, Bathinda and Village Ghudda Distt. Bathinda (Package No. 1) (Bid No. 6/2024).

(6) Providing and Installation of PU Flooring in the Sports Indoor Halls at Polo Ground Patiala, Sector 63 Mohali, Sector 78 Mohali, Fatehgarh Sahib and Ludhiana. (Package-2) (Bid No. 7/2024).

(7) Providing and Installation of PU Flooring in the Sports Indoor Halls at Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jalandhar and Anandpur Sahib Distt. Rupnagar (Package-3) (Bid No. 8/2024) Punjab as per DNIT:-

Closing date & time:- **17.12.2024 at 11.00 AM**

For details log onto:- https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender Notice shall be published on the website only.

Executive Engineer (C),
Punjab State Sports Council
Chandigarh

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ADDENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME NOVEMBER'24
NOTICE No.11/2024

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

e-auction conducted by	Additional Auction for Sr.DMM/MAS during November '24	Material for auction
Sr.DMM/MAS	29/11/202	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website

Note: All other auctions scheduled for November'24 remains unaltered.
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http://www.ireps.gov.in** -> E-Auction->Sale -> Live Auctions.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Gati Shakti Unit/Tiruchchirappalli Division)
E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-27-28-2024-2025 Dt. 11.11.2024

The Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit, Tiruchchirappalli Division invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to **14.00 hrs on 03.12.2024**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1	**T-SG-36-I-27-2024-2025**	Provision of HA-SSDAC and MSDAC in lieu of existing DCTC's having improper shunting of tracks over MAS, PGT, TVC & TPJ division of Southern Railway
2	**T-SG-36-I-28-2024-2025**	Provision of Signalling and Telecom arrangements in connection with 14 Nos. passenger lifts at various stations in TPJ division under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme".

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit Rs.	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in months
1.	610.49	4,55,300/-	60 Days	03.12.2024 at 14.00 Hrs.	09 months
2.	111.52	2,05,800/-	60 Days	03.12.2024 at 14.00 Hrs.	09 months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.

The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

GST will apply as per extent norms.

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Tiruchchirappalli.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Thiruvananthapuram Division
Tender Notice

Divisional Railway manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway. Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-695 014 for and on behalf of the President of India invite e-tender for the under mentioned work.
For other details, the tenderers are advised to refer the detailed tender on the below mentioned website.

Sl. No.	Description	Description
1	Tender Notice No. & Date	**TVC-M-CT-QWS-TVC-OT-2425 dated 22.11.2024**
2	Name of work	Setting up of CAMTECH model quick watering arrangements at PF-1&2, PF 3&4 and PF-5 of TVC yard with a completion period of 180 days.
3	Advertised value	₹2,90,04,540.42
4	EMD	₹2,95,100.00/-
5	Tender closing date & time	16.12.2024, 11:00 hrs
6	Website particulars	**http://www.gem.gov.in**

For details of scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"http://www.ireps.gov.in".**
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "http://www.ireps.gov.in".

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)
Southern Railway, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Catalogue No: UBL-PLS-Nov-24
Date : 13.11.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-auctions for the following work.

Name of the work : Leasing of Parcel space in SLRs of various Passenger carrying trains over Hubballi Division for a period of two years.

Date & Time of bidding
28-11-2024 at 11.00 Hrs.
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/590/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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POLICE OFFICER Rtd/VRS wanted for Office Legal Work Car Rental Company in Devanahali Bangalore 9941132600

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+91 95666 32805 / 95977 29877
E-mail to info.hosur@velammalnexus.com

TECHNICAL

WANTED EXP. Civil Engineer with Interior Knowledge Work Location–Bangalore. send CV to jbhouzz@gmail.com

WANTED FRESH/EXP Service Engineers Diploma/ ITI, A/C Technician for Engineering co Chennai Food & Accommodation Provided :9500171118/ 7708106866

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sshdelhi@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Mr. P. Sathiyamurthy**, purchased a vacant land with the following property details from Mr. P. Narayanan and his brother Mr. P. Ramu through a sale agreement. Subsequently, a General Power of Attorney was registered in the name of Mr. P. Sathiyamurthy on 30/08/2007 at the Bengaluru Sub-Registrar's Office under Document No. **98/2007**, and the original title documents of the property were handed over to Mr. P. Sathiyamurthy by Mr. P. Narayanan and Mr. P. Ramu.
However, Mr. PNarayanan and his brother Mr. PRamu falsely claimed that the original documents were lost and lodged a fake complaint at the Sholingur Police Station. Based on this false claim, they obtained a **Not Traceable Certificate** fraudulently and entered into a Release deed between themselves. They are now attempting to unlawfully sell the property to a third party. In this regard, a complaint has been filed with the Avadi Police Commissioner's Office **(C.No.3892/COP-AVADI/2024)**, and the matter is currently under investigation. Through this public notice, we caution the public not to engage in any purchase of the said property or become involved in this fraudulent transaction.

SHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Allthat piece and parcel of vacant land property bearing Plot No. 33,Measuring 2865 Sq.ft of land and a hut thereonin 'SUNRAMANI NAGAR' comprised in Survey No. 101/1B part of 51, Thirumullaivoyal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District.

MAHESH NARAYANAN , (Advocate)
No.157 Shakthivinayagar Koil Street, Shakthivel Nagar, Peravallur, Chennai - 82. Cell:6380596909

Etched stories: The temple complex, with its ancient scriptures, is a part of the Great Living Chola Temples in Thanjavur, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ancient tunes: An *othuvar* plays Tamil Thirumurai on the *sagoda yazh*, a harp-like instrument.

Beats of honour: Devotees of Lord Shiva take out a procession at the place believed to be the tombstone of Emperor Raja Raja Chola I during the *Sadhaya Vizha* at Udaiyalur near Kumbakonam.

Divine dress-up: Artists dressed as gods line up in front of devotees during the celebration.

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BUSINESS

TAMIL BRAHMIN girl, BE + MBA (IIM) , Runs her own company, 42yrs, 60kg, 5.8 ft tall. Any boy, even if younger. Only from elite affluent family (preferably running business). Classical dance, martial arts. Music, arts, travel, nature & trekking. Fitness & health conscious. WhatsApp msg only at 9342075206

COSMOPOLITAN

CHRISTIAN PARENTS seeks alliance for their born again ornament wearing Dentist daughter (27) (Kerala) BDS, MPH working in Australia in a Govt. org, Language / caste no bar.
Contact : WhatsApp 9446 587270, 9447 972270

DIVORCEE

NAIDU 36/MAGAM 165CM Fair/divorce M.E wkg as Sr Tech Lead 12L/well settledCNB 9443484678

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GIRL 27YRS MBBS/MD/PG ongoing/AIIMS. From highly reputed sunni muslim family chhattisgarh. All Indian sunni muslim call :9827495799

WANTED PG Doctor or well employed Sr. Executive for a PG Doctor-Surgeon DNB, Hindu Nair malayali girl 37yrs Ashwathy, well employed in a leading hospital in Kerala,
Contact: Whatsapp 8144140365

HINDU REDDY Surgeon 33Y 165cms Own Practice. Looking for Suitable Groom From Well Settled Family in Chennai CNB, PH– 89256 40111.

Hindu Agamudayar Rajakulam 28 yrs MBBS seeks suitable doctor groom, pref. Chennai or any Districts. Subsect no bar.Ct: 82208 79684 / 94447 80740

DOCTOR GIRL 31/156 MBBS MD General Medicine, seeks Doctors/ suitable grooms 9447493034, 9497168001

DOCTOR BRIDE
Hindu SC, PR, 28yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, doing MD (Peds), Parents Govt. service, seeks MD / MS ongoing PG Groom, preferably Govt. Doctors.
93630 87847
80560 13678

Tamil Vellalar pillai Girl (24/5'6) Swathi, Thulam MBBS. Seeks well qualified professional Groom preferably Doctor. rajaraman34@gmail.com

HINDU, Adi Dravida, 24yrs/156cm, Fair, M.B.B.S, settled in Chennai seeks Doctor Groom. Whatsup: 94442 18149

Vanniar, Affluent Family (Divorce) aged 33 years, Dr. MS (O&G) seeks same profession bridegroom, sub cas te no bar. Call : 98941 34981

MUDALIAR 32/165 DM Cardiology Seeks, Mudaliar PG Doctorss only Sub-sect No Bar Ct: 82206 77056.

MALAYALAM

WANTED BRIDEGROOM
Veera Saivam, Keralite, 26, PGDM, Tax Associate in MNC at HYD, 7 LPA, 152 cms/50Kgs, slim, coming from a educated, upper middle class family, seeks well educated, settled Hindu Grooms (caste no bar) India/ abroad, 28-30, from similar family background.
Contact: WhatsApp: 7025300843.
Email: ramji13@hotmail.com

NAIR GIRL, 28, fair, 170 cm, Only Daughter, M.Tech, MNC B'lore. Seeks Groom, Engineer, Doctor in India. M:9972150058.

EZHAVA GIRL, 33, Thrikketta, Mtech IIT,Assistant Engineer (Govt.),Included in PSC Rank list for Assistant Professor, E63421259387040466

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

MALAYALAM

U.S. SETTLED professional Kerala Hindu parents seek alliance for their U.S. born and raised professional daughter; pretty, accomplished singer, dancer, 31, 152cm, currently working in Southern U.S. from professionals raised/settled or did higher studies in the U.S. Caste no bar. Interested parties please reply with details and a recent picture to: bejeweledsnow@hotmail.com

Suitable match for fair, well-settled B.Tech Menon girl, age 29 years, height 155cms, star Chitira working as Software Consultant and settled in Thane (West), Maharashtra.
The girl, who is our only child, belongs to upper middle class affluent family with good values and seeks suitable match from decent Nair/Menon boys from Mumbai or Chennai in the age group of 30 - 34 years. The boy shall be well-educated and well-settled in his profession.
Email details to menon.suresh1962@gmail.com or whatsapp to 9819065462

Groom Wanted for 29 Years old, RCSC, upper middle class Family, pursuing PhD in California, preferably from Citizens/Green card holders. Contact: 9382783838

NRI

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 36, 160, US–educated/based lawyer. Seeking successful, open–minded, understanding S. Indian partner. Call/WA 9345634365.

PUNJABI

SM4 29/170CM, NIT Gold Medalist, EdTech Prof., BLR. Bful, slim, simple. Fam. settled Surat. Seeks Edu., Tall Punjabi match. Call 9374738545

TAMIL

SEEKS GROOM from Bangalore/ Chennai, for CSI Christian Nadar girl, 28/160 working in MNC Bangalore 1.30 Lakh per month Ct: 9893392905 / 9589003508, gjas1968@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED CSI Chirstain Nadar, 27yrs, B.Tech, MA(US), Elite business family Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

CSI CHRISTIAN, 32, fair, well educated legal professional from respectful elite cosmopolitan family, settled in Chennai seeks suitable well educated Groom with similar background. Ph: 9445417111/ 824–8853323

RC CHRISTIAN Age 33, PGDM – HR Bachelor's in Arts – French/Philosophy Working in the Embassy @ Delhi. Ct: 8130110968, 9818455593

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Homely, B.Tech., PGDM(XLRI), 25 Years, Budding Entrepreneur, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, well qualified and employed Groom with clean habits Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111

PAVANA RC Girl Malayali Family 29/ 171cm, Graduate From Stella Maris College & Done HR – Loyola College. Settled in Chennai, T–Nagar For More Than 48 Years, Now Working HR in Microsoft Hyderabad Seeks Groom From Chennai or Kerala Working in Hyderabad Age 30–34 Year. 9884185583

CHRISTIAN, INTERCASTE , 33yrs, MS, Software Professional, at USA, Income 1crore Ph.8138901294

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30yrs, B.E, Software Professional at UK, Income 50lakhs. Ph. 8138900553

RC/VELLALAR/24/BE,MS FROM affluent family seeks affluent/elite grooms in Tamil Nadu (prefer Chennai) Mob 9444466802

CSI NADAR 28 yrs BE, Looking for IT Professional Groom(Chennai) with Good Family.Ct.9841242355,9321940618

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 34yrs, Divorced, MBBS,MS, Doctor Professional at Kanyakumari. Income50lakks. ph. 7356483111

SEEKING NEVER Married Christian Tamil/Telugu Groom age(41–44) working in Chennai/US for Naidu Bride–SWE Ct:9962805093/ hemapriya.h@gmail.com

RC 51/163 fair & look young seperated 2children studying seeks person from abroad with support 8148201381

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MD doing, Chennai, Elite family, Seeks groom Doctor / Business – 9962530015

VELLALAR/PILLAI 29 MBA (IIM) AGM MNC Chennai 27L PA Seeks DOCTOR Officer Govt PSU IIM IIT NIT Groom. CNB. 9994113213

TAMIL

DOCTOR, ANAESTHETIST, Hindu Nadar fair, 30yrs Uthradam seeks doctor or engineer groom CNB: 9840772648

MUDALIYAR 27/152CM, slim, fair Girl, Bharani Mesham, B.Tech Working in MNC Bangalore as Software Engineer Seeks Suitable Groom.
CT : 6374286360 /9443490931

HINDU YADAVA Tamil,30/ 173 B.E (Arc) Seeks South Indian boy from Chennai Business/ Well Educated, Cast no bar Ct: 98840 30309

KULALA (TELUGU), 27/160, BE, ECE, Uthiradam, Dhanusu, 2nd marriage, issueless, short lived, seeks suitable groom from educated family, working professional not more than 34, caste no bar, Ct: 8075760926

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriya Bride 22 year old, M.Com, Seeks Bridegroom from same caste upper middle class. Bank or Govt Employees preferred. mail id: mbravindran89@gmail.com

✔ **VADAKALAI, ANUSHAM,** Kowshika,33 years, B.Tech, M.S, Ph.d (US), Upper middle class, U.S. Working groom Preferred. willing to relocate. ct: 98944 89074, Srigeo12@gmail.com

SEEKING EMPLOYED bridegroom below 35y for Hindu SC fair, educated, divorced, homely & employed 32y bride from elite family. CNBar 9483542477

HINDU NADAR 32yrs/164cm, B.Tech star–Revathy workg–IT seeks IT/ other profnl groom 9944410712/ 9514952555

BALIJA NAIDU, 29 yrs, Issueless divorcee, MNC, good position, seeks broad minded, friendly, willing to re locate to Bangalore, (Caste no bar)
Ct : 9943043696.

HINDU NADAR 23years B.sc, MBA Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu 24yrs, B.Tech,Own Industries and Warehouses in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

✔ **VADAKALAI, UTHIRAM,** Simmam 26 years, M.A English, M.Sc (Psychotherapy) B.Ed, Upper middle class. seeks working groom from CBE, Bengalore. chennai. ct: 98944 89074

WANTED GROOM for a Post Graduate Doctor, Eye Surgeon, Chennai Based, 33 Years, Kettai Star, Viruchiga Rasi, Mithuna Lagnam, Doctors, Engineer, Auditor or Equivalent With Good Family Background, Well Settled, Hindu, Telugu, Reddy & Non Veg May Contact in Whats App 9941019444 Email: lokyuva22@gmail.com

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 33/ 160cm Krithigai, P.G, Employee in IT Chennai, seeks Groom Ct: 9445505491

MUDALIAR 29/158 beautiful, M.S., pursuing Ph.D Abroad seeks suitable well qualified groom. Ct: 9448511720

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR 98 born PG 155 cm employed only daughter, Seeks Chennai based Groom only Ct: 9176146284

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 30/155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK. Seeks Groom in UK . Caste No Bar. Contact : 99444 00307, 89034 21862.

CNB 26YRS BE, MBA(Uk) working in UK, well educated Background Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/ 9710091999

Sozhiya Vellalar 1984 Born TN Govt Officer seeks Qualified Groom preferably from Coimbatore. CT: 84891-64665

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 31yrs, MBBS, MD, Doctor Professional at Chennai. Income 20lakhs. Ph.8138900312

MUDALIAR BUSINESS Family. Beautiful educated bride. 23 yrs. Seeks groom from business background. Contact 9994106265

SEEKING QUALIFIED Groom in Chennai for 42/152cm Divorcee No Issues, Msc.Phy. working Pvt Comp: 7094562548

CASTE–NOBAR 26/138/ FAIR, MBBS,MS/ Seeks Proffessional, Working or Business Groom. 9342939342, 9385599044

HINDU NADAR, Age 29 / 169cm, well educated, Working at IT, Good family seeks suitable groom. Preferably IT job or Other good job. Age below 35 Remarriage accepted. Contact: 73975-98889. (Brokers excuse).

GROOM WANTED 26yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai. Caste No Bar Ct: 9710093999 / 9710091999

SC (AD), 29yrs, MBBS, Well educated family background Seeks Suitable Groom Contact 9710093999/ 9710091999

SEEKING ALLIANCE for our only Daughter Iyengar, 35 years B.E., MS., Divorced working in Singapore from well-educated working professionals with modern outlook and traditional values preferably South Indian Brahmin. Ct:9920415264/ 9930175086

TAMIL

MUDALIAR (CNB): 23/ V.Fair, MBA (USA), Father Industrialist, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom Business / Doctor / Eng – 8925019776

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, MBA (HR), Amazon, Rs.80,000 Pm, Chennai, Well settled family, Seeks groom India / Abroad– 8939012419

Tamil Hindu Nadar 34/158, Pooradam Dhanusu, IAS- Maharastra, Divorcee, no issue preferred Hindu Groom Caste No Bar. Ct: 9445282905/ 9445704985

MUDALIYAR 34/151cm B.Tech Fair Looking Working in Chennai. Looking for Suitable Match Ct: 9444114972

BRAHMIN IYENGAR 25/ 154cm working in Wipro looking for a boy well settled from good family. 9941008316

WANTED GROOM
Doctor 27/5.3" MD(Derm) Final Year Kanada Madhwa Seeks Groom Preferably Doctor from Chennai/ Bangalore any Brahmin
Ct: Whatsapp No
98844 81856

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, ACCOMPLISHED, 30, 180, UK–educated, EU–based, outgoing professional. Seeking educated, attractive, compatible partner. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

TELUGU, 34 yrs, NRI, Vannar, wanted any South Indian girl from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Ph: +61 498081108 W/P.CNB

DOCTOR CARDIOLOGIST groom Hyderabad never married 1971 born 165cm own house, car, seeks alliance never married any brahmin bride 40–45 yrs. Ph 7013810359.

SEEKS LIFE Partner for 75Yrs Old Widower, Living in Chennai Age/ Cast No Bar. Contact:– 98847 49445.

DOCTOR

KULALAR 28/165Cms M.S. (General Surgery Final Year), Seeks Doctor Bride. Caste No Bar.
Contact : 9600879203, 0413-2278203

31, SURGEON, MCh(AIIMS), 180cm, Hindu, OBC, Tamil/Kannada. Ph: 01135521849

HINDU, Adi Dravida, 28/160cm, Fair MD., Anesthesia settled in Chennai seeks Doctor Bride,CNB. 63697 02539

MALAYALAM

✔ **CHRISTIAN 29/**178, MS, US Educated and Employed Professional. Invite Compatible Life Partner. 9791683272.

AGE 35 M.A. B.Ed. High school Teacher.Horoscope and caste optional.Prefer bride from any state ready to settle in Kerala. 9400245879.

TELUGU 34 yrs, Vannan, NRI Australaiin, wanted any never married girl. CNB. Ph: +61 498081108. W/P

✔ **VILAKKITHALA NAIR** Boy, Thriketta 35/176, Infosys, invites suitable aliance. ph. 9961675929

TRIVANDRUM BASED Nair Boy 28, 168 cm, Uthram, PhD from USA (final stage) +91 91460 57469, 97462 39230

NRI

TAMIL HINDU Vanniar CANADIAN CITIZEN 37 YRS BE, MBA, (BUSINESS ANALYST) Tall, Fair, Divorcee, ISSUELESS, Kettai, Viruchikam, Looking for professionally qualified working BRIDE. Living in CANADA/US Contact: 9444728407/9444462162

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 183 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Parents are professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448343

INTERCASTE, 29, 183 cms, MS, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from equivalent community. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 30, 180 cms, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for like minded match from smiliar community. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 28, 178 cms, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from equivalent community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 27, 178 cms, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from smellier community. Preferably India, Singapore, Dubai and USA. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 29, 165 cms, Entrepreneur. Lives in Tirupur. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from equivalent community from Chennai and Coimbatore. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 30, 160 cms, MD in Microbiology, Doctor. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from equivalent community from US or India. Contact: 6366448343

MUSLIM, 27, 170 cms, PhD, Working Professional. Lives in Ireland. Business class family. Looking for an amiable match from similar community. Preferably from Abroad countries. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Hindu, Vellalar 28-years 167cm Meenam, Fair, Slim, Ph.D., Lecturer, Rs.9 LPA from Elite Family seeks Suitable, Qualified, Cultured, Good Personality Groom upto 30-years.
Contact:
Dr. T. V. Govindan, Professor of Surgery (Grand Father of the Bride)
98403 75075
98424 25255

Mudaliyar 30/167cm Master Degree, Good looking American Citizen Looking from Upper Middle Class family Hindu Cast No Bar Highly Qualified American Groom. Ct: 99628 37511

CSI NADAR 34yrs, Fair,well Educated, Parents seeks Alliance from suitable God Fearing, Qualified and Employed Groom with Clean Habits. Call / Whats App: 80561 45046 / 91769 15658

TELUGU

BALIJA/ROHINI 30/170CM Fair/M. Arch/AM MNC 9L /well settled seeks grooms 9486105047

NAIDU, MCA, 48, Div. issueless, seeks suitable groom ct.9445691753

KAMMA 27/132CM / FAIR/ BE/ MNC / Well Settled Family/ Seeks India or Abroad. Ct: 93414 44444, 7305997224

BALIJA 27/135CM/FAIR/ MBBS, MD/ Doctor/ Beautiful Bride Seeks Drs or Non–Doctors. 93855 99022, 9840049277

KAMMA/26/138/FAIR/B.TECH,MBA UPPER Middle Class Seeks Groom Working or Business. 98402 31701/ 98400 49277

REDDY 26/FAIR/BEAUTIFUL Bride, MBBS,MD Well Settld Family Seeks Good Looking Groom 9342939343, 9345985323

NAIDU 28/165 Fair Beautiful MBBS, MD, Kauvery Hospital,2000000. PA,Elite Family,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

ENGLISH

✔ **BBA, Boy,** Swati, Parasara, Own Business, Affluent, 10LPA, Fair, 66/170 seeks Graduate Girl, Father MNC Director, Contact: 9600001630, Email: ramkieternity@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Kapu boy preferably from South, 6 feet 1 inch, 30 yrs, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, Group A Gazetted Officer in Govt of India. Contact: +91 9453045661

MALAYALAM

NAIR/MENON BRIDE WANTED
Seeking well educated and professionally settled Nair/ Menon bride for a 31/5'9", wheatish groom. He holds multiple foreign PG qualifications and is currently a Senior Consultant in Government Consulting at Deloitte, Chennai. Belonging to an upper middle class Nair/Menon family from Thrissur, Kerala. Chithira with 1 Dosham.
Contact at 9810048262
Email:bgmenon1@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR boy, age 31/170 cm, Moolam (slight shadow of Papam in Chowa), MBBS, DNB, Govt. Doctor in Kerala Health Services, extremely good family in Trivandrum, seeks alliance from similarly employed or highly qualified girl with similar background. Caste not very particular if the proposal is suitable. 9447028290.

NAIR PARENTS Chennai own house seeks graduate girl for son 37/180 BE, MBA own business Chathayam, Sudha Jathagam. CNB. Cont: 98841 33204

SAURASTRA

CNB, BC, Saurashtra, Age 39, 1st Marriage, Hastam, Kanni, B.Com, MBA, Pvt. Manager, 1.27 Lakhs Pm, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride. 9444735240

TAMIL

Christian 48/177 cm B.com Govt job, 1.1 LPM divorcee,Chennai seeks bride CNB. Ct: 88258 97792 / 99406 71540

CHRISTIAN, CONVERT, 33yrs, MCA, software professional at Singapore. Income 50lakhs Ph. 8138900557

CHRISTIAN, RC, 33 yrs, B.E,M.S, Engineer at Bangalore. Income 50 lakhs Ph.8138900316

CHRISTIAN, RC, 38yrs, B.E,M.S,Software professional at USA. Income 50 lakhs. Ph. 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, BORN Again, 28yrs, MIB, Self Employed at Coimbatore. Income 15lakshs. 8138901281

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 29yrs, LLB, Legal officer at Mumbai. Income 10lakhs ph. 8138901383

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180, B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2L pm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB.Ct: 9442993042

VADAKALAI SRIVATSAM Revathy Feb 1984 /180 cm MS Ph.D (U S) Postdoc (E U) Program Lead in policy research think – tank New Delhi. Seeking professionally qualified bride. Kalai No bar Whatsapp: 9840603178

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

TAMIL

RELIABLE GENUINE Life Partner Age 45-55 Seeks for Widower 65 Vokkaliga B.E. Well Settled With Own House. Widow or Divorced Also
Ct : 9791556546.

HINDU–BE/33/172CM/SWE/SC/AYILLAM–KATAGAM/24 LPA . Family is financially well off, educated and settled in Bangalore . Looking for a suitable Bride from the same/other community, with good family values. Contact No 9845401461.

HINDU NADAR 28 Aswini BE MBA IIM Ahmedabad 3 Laks Per Month working at Chennai. Seeks Doctor / IAS / Group 1 Officer. Bride. 84388 37195

BALIJA NAIDU 26yrs B.Tech Well educated family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 29yrs, MBM,Business Professional at Madurai. Income 10 crore Ph. 7356483111

HINDU, DEVAR, 37yrs, B.E, Software professional at USA. Income 1 crore Ph. 9048444840

AGE 56 Individual Prospective Individual Dependent Above 50 Years of Age. Please Contact : 9962582006

41YRS,176 CMS, Fair, Athletic,Teetotaler, Non Smoker, Divorced. Masters from UK. Well settled in Chennai.Entrepreneur & Legal consultant, Hindu(Caste No Bar) Call : 9840234030

HINDU, Viswakarma Rohini, 175/31 BE MS (USA) R&D Engineer California, USA 6L/Month Seeks Preferably IT employed Bride of Same Caste. Ct : 9789942977.

ABOVE MEDIUM height, graduate or above, 1 to 4 years less aged, employed or not Bride needed for Vadamal, Koundinyam, Poosam, 29 years, fair, 183cm tall B.E., Sr Manager – Daimler Coimbatore Groom. Subsect no bar. 9444580645 Uncle Chennai; 9944815994, venkattram@gmail.com Father, Coimbatore.

Hindu Maravar, 29, 160cm, Ayilyam, Kadagam, Qual: M.D. (Anesthesia), Madurai. Looking for cultured homely understanding partner preferably MBBS/MD/MS. Contact: 9094403037, niruasoke@gmail.com

MUDALIAR, KETTAI 31/168 BE Mech Earning 9 Lacs p.a, Own House Coimbatore. CT: 9597772439, 8489272439.

CNB, 34YRS, M.Arch, well Educated Background in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 30yrs B.Tech MS(US) working in US 6lakhs pm, Elite Family 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIYAR 34 yrs / 165 cm B.Tech Msc, Revathy/Meenam Clean Habit, well Paid Job in Germany. Ct. 9442135216

ELITE VISHWAKARMA Gold 26/175 FAIR, BTech, Mom Prof / Dad Jewelery. Equal CNB. Ct 9360571051 / 9790182084

ARYA VYSYA, CNB, teetotaller Vegitarian 1983 Born needs Suitable Bride Ct 9894450475

HINDU, PILLAI, 31yrs, MBA, Senior Business Analyst at Bangalore. Income 20lakhs Ph.8138900557

HINDU, PILLAI, 29yrs, M.tech, Software professional at Australia. Income 1crore Ph. 8138900652

HINDU, BOYAR, 35yrs, B.E, Software professional at Chennai. Income 15lakhs. 9072777822

HINDU, GOUNDER, 26yrs, B.E, Quality Assurance Engineer at Pune. Income 12lakhs. Ph.8138901181

MUDALIAR ELITE Business Family. Well–educated groom. 25 yrs. Seeks beautiful bride from business elite background. Contact 9994106265

HINDU TAMIL Yadava boy, 43, Chennai, self–employed, 50,000/month, seeking bride from BC/MBC. Ct: 9384693931

KALLAR BRIDEGROOM 29yrs B.E. Manager Nationalized Bank seeks educated preferably working or otherwise good looking Kallar Bride. Contact 8098396659 or 9843333457

CNB, 29/182 B.Com, Govt. Bank Staff, Seeks Suitable Veg. Family Bride, Parent Please whatsapp: 9787777345

CNB RICH or Employable Abroad, Tamil/ Telugu bride required for Naidu groom 1981 born, Divorcee no issues BDS Surgeon MBA (UK) working Bangalore, Admin Reputed Hospital. Ct: 9886782390/ 9962246305

KARKATHAR/ SAIVA Pillai, 12/12/ 1994, Revathy/ Meenam, Asst–Professor MS (General Surgeon), having Own Clinic Chennai. Well settled family, Looking PG Doctor Vegetarian, Family Oriented Girl. Contact: 9841039515

TAMIL

NAIDU/THULUVAVELLALA, 32 yrs, Tall (180cm), B.E, Teetotaler, Chennai based wealthy family seeks bride from Telugu or Tamil. Ph:9840831532

M.S., SWE (35) Seeks Suitable BRIDE From Naidu Caste. Simple Marriage Proposed. Ct:9445716965/ 9445728514

HINDU, KONGU Maruthuvar, 36yrs, BSMS, working in a reputed hospital. Seeks suitable bride, Caste no bar. Ct: 7824000381

✔ **G. GOWRISHANKAR / 35 / 175 cm / working in U.K as Team Lead for Frame store (Visual Effects Company) / parents intercaste (hindu) / contact number: 96770 90227.**

VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar, Rishabam,38/165,BE, SWE,MNC/USA, 1L USD/A.Seeks working SWE bride. 9487624807

HINDU MUDALIAR Groom, First Marriage, 46, 170cm, BE, B'lore. 9886493369, SRD_Daksh@outlook.com

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 24yrs BE 2L/pm Working in Bangalore business family in CH 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU NADAR, 40/185cm, M.Tech(IIT Madras), Sr. Principal Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride (upto 36 yrs), Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

51, BUSINESS wife expired one boy Aged 13.Seeks bride Widows/Orphan Age 35–45 without child. Ct:9444126774

SC(AD) 27YRS BE, MS(UK), working in UK, Well educated family Seeks Suitable Bride. 9710093999/ 9710091999

MIDDLE AGE Seeks Unmarried or Divorced Women with or without Children Around Age 45. Religion and Caste No Bar.Contact whatsapp. 9444543208 or asmaass.ayub@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYENGAR Star Bharani 34/166cm B.Tech working in Bangalore seeks educated, working bride from same or allied caste Call: 94980 52220 Mail: padhukrishna4@gmail.com

Vanniya Kula Kshatriyar 38 Fair 173cm BE MS UK Business Entrepreneur Chennai Rs.16 LPA seeks suitable Bride with well educated family background Caste No Bar Send detailed Profile Photos Horoscope to swathi1957@gmail.com

VADAMAL SANDILYAM Uthiradam 32/ 168, B.Tech, WIPRO B'lore, 24LPA Seeks Graduate Bride. Ph: 9868376590

TELUGU BRAHMIN 39, BE Proprietor, HR Admin, Caste No bar, Veg only. No Broker. 7358234746, 9884742019

IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC IT Chennai 25 Lacs PA Seek unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

SCAD 30 ME Private 10 LPA seeks Chennai based Prof.qualified working bride. Contact 9444445875

Hindu AD 45/171cm M.PED, M.Phil, Ph.d, Physical Dir 6LPA seeks suitable bride from same caste. 98413 14851

Mudaliar 58years/160cms Never married Central Govt. Rs.1Lakh pm. Own House Ct: 94444 47625 / 87786 30870

WANTED BRIDE
35 yrs Boy. Height 6'2"
Born to the Inter Religious Parents living in Chennai. Working in the UK Based Company @ Bracknell, UK
Looking for Graduate Bride from Tamil Nadu. Caste, Religion, Status No Bar.
Whatsapp : 9884401199
kumareshwhitman@gmail.com

TAMIL

Hindu ST, 43, BE MBA, AGM in HMT Office Banglr, 2nd Divorcee No issue seeks suitable bride CNB 9677247227

HINDU, IYENGAR, 31yrs, B.E,LLB,MBA, Business Professional at Chennai. Income 25 lakhs Ph. 8138900412

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 29yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9710093999 / 9710091999

CHENNAI BASED Naidu 45 B.Tech MS, USA, Self Employed Divorcee no issues seeks suitable bride. 8056144909

NAIDU 56YEARS, 2nd marriage, no issue, well settled, upper middle. Contact : 9944533545

BRIDE WANTED Chettiyar 24yrs BE MBA Own Transports Elite business family Chennai. 9710093999 / 9710091999

NAIDU/NEVER MARRIED, 50, B.Sc, Business seeks any Naidu bride. Ct. 9445691753

KAMMA NAIDU, BCom,ACA,ACS,31/ 180Cm, Fair,Star Thiruvathirai, Rasi Mudhunam, well to do family, partner in a mid size firm of Chartered Accountants along with his father at Chennai. Seeks Bride from Kamma Naidu family. Ct. 9840786456.

KAMMA 31/148/HANDSOME B.Tech (NIT) , MS/USA Affluent Family. Seeks India or Abroad 88800 88856, 9345448354

KAMMANAIDU 33/153/FAIR MBBS,MS Gold Medalist Well Settled Family Seeks Drs Profile 9385599066, 7305997228

REDDY/29 155/MS(USA)/21LS MNC/India Very Handsome Seeks Good Looking No Expectatin 9003091811, 9380472999

NAIDU 31/185 Handsome ME,SWE Motional INC,USA,150000.USD.PA, Elite Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

REQUIRED BRIDE
Looking for Marriage Alliance, Educated Engineer Groom, 30 years, 6 feet, Fair. business in Hyderabad & Bangalore from respected family with one sibling. Seek Beautiful, Educated, Tall and Fair Complexioned Bride from respected **Kamma or Kaapu family** from Krishna, Godavari or Vizag Districts. Interested, parents may send bio-data and photo in confidence. This advertisement is for wider choice.
Contact 8792295012

Reddiar, 34, B.Tech, Cent. Govt, 70k pm, Divorcee, no child, seeks bride. ph: 9841935690

KAMMA NAIDU 42/170cm, MBA, Well Settled,own Business, own House with Rental income,Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Caste No Bar. Ct: 98407 97575

URDU

SMU 33/167 MBA Divorcee 2months, Sr.salesExe, KIA Motors 6L/PA, seeks religious bride. Chennai: 98844 39932

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Europe All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

INVESTORS WANTED for lodge project @ Tiruvannamalai.Contact 9600059788

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KANCHIPURAM RUNNING CBSE School (KG–12) for Sale. kanchisale@gmail.com

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IMMD BUSINESS Property Personal Project 3rd party, Low Int. 7305912765

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RENTAL / HIRE SERVICES

OWN–BOARD CARS Wanted 2020–2024 Model All Brand Car without Driver only.Devanahalli Bangalore. 9941132600

SITUATIONS REQUIRED

INDEX OF SITUATION REQUIRED

Professionals seeking positions

CHENNAI BASED EA/PA – 56 – needs job in Blre – 30yrs exp. 100 trustworthy & honest. 9940017328.

Govt. gives nod for starting English-medium sections in 93 KPSes

However, educationists have questioned the move as the commission working to formulate the Karnataka State Education Policy has not yet submitted its report

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Following a demand from parents, the State government has issued an order to start English-medium sections in 93 Karnataka Public Schools (KPSes). The expenditure for these additional sections will be borne from the grant earmarked for the development of these schools in the 2024-25 Budget.

Monetary matters: The expenditure for these additional sections will be borne from the grant in the 2024-25 Budget. FILE PHOTO

Officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) said that preparations have been made to start 93 additional English-medium sections in these schools from 2025-26, with the 2024-25 academic year already half completed.

The government started a total of 286 KPSes across the State to strengthen government schools and increase enrollment. The government's objective is to provide education from pre-primary (LKG) to class 12 under one roof. Bilingual classes are being conducted in all KPSes, and the enrollment of students has also increased.

Officials said there has been a demand for KPSes and for English-medium sections, owing to which the DSEL had submitted a proposal to the government seeking permission to start the sections. The government recently approved the proposal.

'Why before SEP?'

However, educationists and members of the Commission of the State Education Policy (SEP) have objected to the move even before the final report of the SEP has been submitted.

"I do not understand the rationale behind the decisions of this government. A commission has been constituted to formulate the Karnataka State Education Policy, and the commission is working on it. The policy naturally includes the question of the medium of teaching, and also learning any other second language/s to the competency level. However, the government and the DSEL have no patience to wait for the policy to be submitted by the commission," said Niranjanaradhya V.P., development educationist and a member of the SEP Commission.

46,757 schools

At present, there are 46,757 government primary and high schools across Karnataka with a total of 42,92,351 students. There are a total of 2,686 bilingual schools with English medium.

In 2024-25, the government already started English-medium sections in 1,419 government schools, including 872 government schools in Kalyana Karnataka. Now, 93 KPSes will be added to this.

"Bilingual sections in government schools are facing the problems of teacher shortage and only 7,276 teachers are working against the total of 11,124 sanctioned posts. So, it is unscientific to start an English- medium school without addressing the shortage of teachers or providing comprehensive training to existing teachers on teaching English," said Mr. Niranjanaradhya.

However, a DSEL official said: "The State government has recently ordered the start of English-edium sections in a total of 93 KPSes. Classes will be started from 2025-26 academic year after making all necessary arrangements including enrollment of children, recruitment of teachers and others."

NIMHANS has to be considerate towards women nurses on their request for childcare leave: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), which is an instrumentality of the State, has to conduct itself as a model employer and has to be considerate while treating the claims of women employees for maternity and childcare leave (CCL), said the High Court of Karnataka.

The High Court has pointed out that a child has a fundamental right to be breastfed.

What adversity would have hit if CCL for 120 days was granted to a nurse, who is one among a total of around 700 nurses, 70% of whom are women, working in the institute, the court questioned while dismissing a petition filed by NIMHANS.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice C.M. Joshi made these observations while upholding the Central Administrative Tribunal's direction to NIMHANS to grant 120 days of CCL to 32-year-old S. Anitha Joseph, a nursing officer attached to the emergency department of the institute.

NIMHANS had filed the petition before the court challenging the tribunal's order in favour of its employee-nurse.

She had knocked on the doors of the tribunal as her plea for 120-days CCL was rejected. She was initially granted 180 days of maternity leave and later she applied for 120 days of CCL, before the end of her maternity leave.

It was contended on behalf of NIMHANS that its guidelines do not permit CCL beyond 45 days at a stretch in a year, while also claiming that she cannot be granted CCL as there was a shortage of staff at the Intensive care unit (ICU). It was argued that she was put on terms, while sanctioning maternity leave, that no extension of leave would be granted in view of the shortage of nurses in the institute.

Both the tribunal and the court have noted that Rule 43-C of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules does not restrict CCL to 45 days at a stretch and the guidelines issued by NIMHANS is contrary to the rules.

Pointing out that a child has a fundamental right to be breastfed and referring to the rights of a child under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, the Bench said that the NIMHANS "cannot be oblivious to the fact that it is the mother who is the best judge to decide what would be in the best interest of a growing baby."

This run club helps people find new friends

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

When Sidharth Yadav moved to Bengaluru this May, he found himself feeling lonely. "I didn't have any friends," says the former journalist and content marketer at an IT firm. "I was tired of going to clubs every weekend."

It didn't help that he worked remotely, something that happens a lot in Bengaluru. "Many workplaces are hybrid or entirely remote, so that contributes to the loneliness too," believes Mr. Yadav, who began thinking about other avenues to socialise and "sort of coalesce around a common theme."

As someone who has been a fitness enthusiast and is currently pursuing a certification in exercise science, the obvious theme was fitness. "So, I decided to start a run club," says Mr. Yadav, who started the Stride Run Club with exactly three people: himself, a friend, and his cousin. They met in the first week of September and ran around Agara Lake in HSR Layout, which went on to become their regular hangout spot.

Stride Run Club combines fitness with socialising opportunities for those new to Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Today, two-and-a-half months down the line, we have 70 to 100 people at every run," he says, adding that they have also managed to build a large online community. "We've gained 4K followers on Instagram and have an 1,100-strong community on WhatsApp. And yes, we get a lot of repeat participants."

Stride runs, which occur every weekend either on Saturday or Sunday, are structured like this: an icebreaker session followed by a warm-up, the actual run, and a cooldown session. This is followed by a final socialising segment where games are played before the runners head to a nearby eatery. "We just chill there for a bit, and then people go back home and post on Instagram," says Mr. Yadav.

This emphasis on socialisation makes this run club different from the numerous other running groups that have mushroomed across the city in the last couple of decades, he believes. "I wanted to keep it enjoyable and make fitness and running a social activity," he says.

The focus is not on intensity or pacing but simply to enjoy moving. "Participants can choose to walk too or do a mix of walking and running," he says.

Mr. Yadav says that a typical run has nearly everything a nightclub offers, minus the alcohol: music, conversation, and fun. "We also put a stamp on people's wrist to initiate them into the club," he says.

To know more about Stride Run Club, check out their Instagram page @stride_runclub_bengaluru

Man loses money via credit card after clicking a link to update delivery location

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old private firm employee in Bengaluru lost over ₹46,000 after clicking on a link to reportedly update his location to get a parcel. An FIR has been registered at the North East Cybercrime, Economic, and Narcotics (CEN) police station.

On November 6, the man received a phone call saying there was a delivery in his name, and that he needed to update his delivery location. The accused sent a link to his phone and directed him to update the location and phone number.

After doing so, he was directed to pay ₹25 to process the delivery. The victim then updated his credit card details. He also typed in the one-time password, and ₹548 was deducted from his credit card. Within minutes, money began to be debited from his card in multiple transactions.

The victim approached his bank to block the card, but before the bank could do so, he lost ₹46,139. He filed a complaint with the police on November 11.

In an earlier case, a 35-year-old man lost ₹27 lakh, after a failed recharge on a mobile application.

According to a complaint, the man recharged his friend's phone number on August 14. While the app showed the transaction was unsuccessful, the money was refunded. Then the victim received a call from an individual claiming to be a customer care executive.

The caller asked the victim to download a mobile application called "Airtel Refund." As per the FIR, the victim downloaded this app and the caller asked him to open the transaction summary.

After he started checking the summary, the phone froze. The victim restarted the mobile to find that WhatsApp was deleted. On August 27, he found that his accounts were emptied. The money is yet to be recovered.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, NOV. 24	
RISE	06:22 SET 17:50
RISE	00:48 SET 13:23
MONDAY, NOV. 25	
RISE	06:23 SET 17:50
RISE	01:34 SET 13:57
TUESDAY, NOV. 26	
RISE	06:23 SET 17:51
RISE	02:18 SET 14:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	31	19
Bengaluru	28	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT

[Pursuant to Sections 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014]

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 108 and 110 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "**Act**") read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the "**Rules**"), Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the "**SEBI Listing Regulations**"), Secretarial Standard on General Meetings ("**SS-2**") issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, including any statutory modification(s), clarification(s), substitution(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the "**MCA**"), Government of India, for holding general meetings / conducting postal ballot process through electronic voting (remote e-voting) vide General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021, 03/2022 dated May 05, 2022, 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 and 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 (the "**MCA Circulars**") and any other applicable laws and regulations, to transact the following business by way of ordinary resolution via Postal Ballot through e-voting process:

S.No.	Description of the Resolution
1.	Appointment of Shri.Vincent Menachery Devassy (DIN: 09850306) as the Whole Time Director (Executive Director) of the Bank and approval of his remuneration

The Postal Ballot Notice is being sent to the Members, whose names appeared in the Register of Members / Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on Friday, November 15, 2024 (the "Cut-Off Date"), through e-mail to those shareholders, who have registered their e-mail address and through post for those shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address. The Postal Ballot Notice is also available at the Bank's website www.tmb.in and the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

In accordance with the applicable circulars issued by the MCA, the members can vote on the resolutions proposed in the said Postal Ballot Notice only by electronic means ("e-voting"). The Bank has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to provide the e-voting facility. The detailed instructions on e-voting are provided in the postal ballot notice sent to the shareholders.

The remote e-voting schedule is as under:

EVEN (E-Voting Event Number)	132127
Commencement of e-voting	Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 9.00 A.M. IST
Conclusion of e-voting	Monday, December 23, 2024 at 5.00 P.M. IST
Cut-Off date for eligibility to vote	Friday, November 15, 2024

The e-voting facility will be disabled by NSDL, immediately after 5.00 p.m. IST on Monday, December 23, 2024, for voting thereafter. Once the vote on the resolution is cast by the Member, the same cannot be changed subsequently.

The Board of Directors have appointed Shri.P.Sriram, (Membership No. FCS 4862) (CP No. 3310), Practicing Company Secretary of M/s.SPNP & Associates, to act as the scrutinizer, for conducting the Postal Ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.

The resolution, if passed by requisite majority by remote e-voting, shall be deemed to have been passed on the last date of e-voting i.e., Monday, December 23, 2024. The results of e-voting will be announced on or before Wednesday, December 25, 2024, and will be displayed on the Bank's website www.tmb.in/investor's-relations and on the website of the NSDL i.e., www.evoting.nsdl.com. The results will simultaneously be communicated to the stock exchanges i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 022 - 4886 7000 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
Sd/-
Swapnil Ashok Yelgaonkar
Company Secretary
(Membership No: ACS 21877)

Thoothukudi
November 23, 2024

For resolution of your complaints against RBI Regulated Entities (RE)* follow these steps
1
Lodge your complaint first with the RE
2
Get acknowledgement/ reference number
3
If no resolution is received from the RE in 30 days or you are not satisfied with it, you may file your complaint with the RBI Ombudsman on RBI's CMS portal (cms.rbi.org.in) or by post to CRPC**
RBI Kehta Hai...
Jaankaar Baniye, Satark Rahiye!
Filing complaints directly with the RBI Ombudsman may lead to rejection.
For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ios
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in
*Banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies, Payment System Participants, Prepaid Instruments, Credit Information Companies **CRPC: Reserve Bank of India, Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017.
Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

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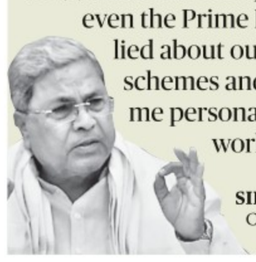


It was a contest between our honest work and the misinformation campaign of the BJP-JD (S) alliance. The Opposition, and even the Prime Minister himself, lied about our guarantee schemes and tried to malign me personally, but none of it worked.

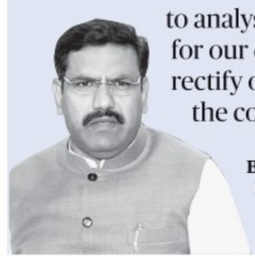
SIDDARAMAIAH, Chief Minister

The ₹56,000 crore we spend on guarantees works out to about ₹250 crore per constituency. Isn't that economically empowering the poor? The verdict is a reply to all its critics. People don't like parties that play with emotions without supporting livelihoods.

D.K. SHIVAKUMAR, Deputy Chief Minister

The ruling Congress has won the bypolls by pumping in money. While contractors and officials worked for it, people have voted Congress fearing that they would lose out on development if they go against the ruling party. There is no magic in it.

R. ASHOK, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly



The BJP expected to win all the three seats, but the results have disappointed us. Soon, leaders of the BJP and JD (S) will meet to analyse the reasons for our defeat. We will rectify our mistakes in the coming days.

B.Y. VIJAYENDRA, BJP State president

I accept my defeat with humility, but I am not disheartened. I will continue to fight with determination. It is evident that the votes of a particular community have largely gone to the Congress, despite our contribution to their welfare.

NIKHIL KUMARASWAMY, JD(S) candidate for Channapatna

From Page One

Congress makes a clean sweep in State

The bypoll mandate indicates that the joint campaign by the BJP and JD(S), with a slew of corruption charges against the Siddaramaiah-led government, did not resonate with the voters. The alliance partners had extensively campaigned on the alleged scams in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority and the multi-crore scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. and Excise Department to tarnish the image of the government.

Third time unlucky

In Channapatna, Mr. Yogeshwar defeated Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Union Minister for for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy. This is third consecutive poll defeat for Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy in less than six years.

Film actor-politician Mr. Yogeshwar polled 1,12,642 votes and Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy 87,229, with margin of victory being 25,413 votes. Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy vacated the seat upon his election to the Lok Sabha from Mandya.

The victory in the constituency would potentially strengthen KPCC chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's hold in the government as well in the Vokkaliga belt.

Mr. Shivakumar, who was smarting under the defeat of his brother, D.K. Suresh, in the Bengaluru Lok Sabha seat, seems to have settled scores with Mr. Kumaraswamy with this victory.

Son who did not shine

Bharath Bommai (BJP), who made his electoral debut in the Shiggaon constituency, which was held by his father, Basavaraj Bommai, since 2008, lost to Mr. Pathan. Mr. Bharath Bommai polled 87,308 votes and Mr. Pathan 1,00,756, with the margin of win being 13,448 votes. Mr. Basavaraj Bommai had vacated his seat upon his election to the Lok Sabha from Haveri. Mr. Basavaraj Bommai had won the seat against Mr. Pathan by a margin of over 35,000 votes in the 2023 Assembly polls.

Wife of MP wins

In the Sandur (ST) constituency, Ms. Annapurna, wife of Congress MP for Ballari, E. Tukaram, won against BJP candidate, Bangaru Hanumantha. Ms. Annapurna polled 93,616 votes and Mr. Hanumantha 83,967, with the victory margin being 9,649 votes. Mr. Tukaram vacated the seat following his election to the Lok Sabha from Ballari. Former Minister and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy, MLA, and other BJP leaders extensively campaigned in the Sandur constituency.

The results would surely lead to more war of words between leaders of the NDA and the Congress in the coming days, especially during the winter session of the State legislature scheduled to be held next month in Belagavi.

Bypoll win an endorsement of Cong. govt.'s guarantee schemes

The victory will give a stimulus to the image of the govt. which is facing multiple charges of corruption from the Opposition

Winners all: (From left) Congress supporters greeting party candidate for Channapatna seat C.P. Yogeshwar; E. Annapurna, who won in Sandur constituency, with her election certificate; and Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan celebrating his victory in Shiggaon, on Saturday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH, SRIDHAR KAVALI, AND SANJAY RITTI

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Bypoll outcome — A fact file

Constituency	2023 winner and votes polled	2023 runner-up and votes polled	Margin of victory	2024 bypoll winner and votes polled	2024 bypoll runner-up and votes polled	Margin of victory
Shiggaon	Basavaraj Bommai, BJP (1,00,016)	Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, Cong. (64,038)	35,978	Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, Cong. (1,00,756)	Bharath Bommai BJP (87,308)	13,448
Sandur	E. Tukaram, Congress (85,223)	Shilpa Raghavendra, BJP (49,701)	35,522	E. Annapurna, Cong. (93,616)	Bangaru Hanumantha, BJP (83,967)	9,649
Channapatna	H.D. Kumaraswamy, JD(S) (96,592)	C.P. Yogeshwar BJP (80,677)	15,915	C.P. Yogeshwar, Cong. (1,12,642)	Nikhil Kumaraswamy JD(S) (87,229)	25,413

The emphatic victory for the Congress in the byelection to the Legislative Assembly from three constituencies will give a stimulus to the image of the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, against whom the Opposition has mounted multiple charges of corruption, and ensure commitment towards the implementation of the five guarantees, which have been criticised by the BJP-JD(S) Opposition combine

The party's victory in Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur will certainly give a big boost to the government to counter the combined onslaught from the Opposition ahead of the winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi.

Guarantees to continue

As both the Chief Minister and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar gave full credit to the "guarantees" for the party's victory in the three seats, party leaders maintained that the schemes would continue and become an indispensable part of the electoral strategy in the coming days. The government is unlikely to tweak the guarantees as a large number of beneficiaries, irrespective of their caste and religion, backed the Congress in the byelections, party leaders maintained.

Annually, a sum of ₹56,000 crore has been allocated for the guarantees, which works out to about ₹250 crore for each Assembly constituency. The BJP's allegations against the Congress government for spending funds on the guarantees instead of development projects seems to have not been validated in the byelection results.

The guarantee schemes, which did not work in a big way for the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with the party winning only nine seats, are likely to provide more dividends to the Congress in the upcoming elections to the rural and urban local bodies, including the BBMP, the leaders maintained.

CM emerges stronger

The electoral mandate would strengthen the hands of the Chief Minister, who is facing a probe into alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife, Parvathi, by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority and allegations of embezzlement of ₹187 crore of the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Buoyed by the byelection results, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had won in the "people's court".

The Chief Minister is also expected to emerge much stronger while dealing with the party high command as the Congress lost badly in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The Chief Minister is also expected to step up his campaign aggressively against the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre for delaying/denying funds to the State projects and share in the devolution of taxes.

Boost to DKS

The victory for the party in Channapatna would not only help film actor-turned-politician C.P. Yogeshwar, who has returned to the Congress from the BJP, to re-establish his hold on his home turf after two bitter defeats against JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, but also shore up the image of Mr. Shivakumar in the Vokkaliga belt of the Old Mysore region. Mr. Shivakumar is expected to bargain hard with the party high command to provide a responsible post to his brother D.K. Suresh, former MP, preferably a seat in the Legislative Council.

The Congress is also expected to undertake the long-pending Cabinet reshuffle. Non-performing Ministers are expected to be axed to accommodate new faces, sources said.

Intense betting in Channapatna on results day too

The Hindu Bureau
RAMANAGARA

The bus shelter opposite the Government Engineering College on Ramanagara's outskirts was bustling with people on Saturday. As the counting of votes progressed on the college campus, the crowd only grew bigger at the bus shelter.

People, who had earlier placed their stakes on Congress candidate for Channapatna C.P. Yogeshwar's victory, were now placing bets on the probable margin of victory. After the seventh round of counting, when Mr. Yogeshwar took the lead, the stakes grew bigger. While those at the bus shelter were placing bets to the tune of a few thousand rupees, there were also those calling on the phone to increase their stake. The margin of victory of 30,000 received the highest stake.

While this was the scenario on the day of the results, earlier, as the result day neared, informal bookies are learnt to have had a field day taking bets on the outcome, a common practice during elections in the political hotbed of Old Mysore region.

Appeal to followers

"The betting only intensified after Mr. Yogeshwar and NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy appealed publicly to their followers not to place bets. Till Friday evening, odds were stacked against Mr. Yogeshwar with bookies offering ₹1.5 lakh on a bet of ₹1 lakh for his (unlikely) win," a Congress worker said. He said that Congress' chances were seen as low after Mr. Yogeshwar, portraying himself as an underdog at a press meet, listed out the challenges that he had to cross to win the election.

Another Congress worker said the bookies were taking a commission of 2%, and that people from Mandya were more interested in betting than even the locals. There were also unconfirmed reports that a few had also placed a portion of their agricultural land on the table. Besides money and jewellery, buildings and agricultural land were also offered on stakes, which have ruined families.

BJP's defeat shows party needs to strengthen its cadre in State

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The washout in all three Assembly seats that went to the byelection in Karnataka has again exposed the lack of focus by the BJP on strengthening its cadre in the State despite its strategists repeatedly referring to this lacunae.

Though it is common for the ruling party to have an advantage in byelection, there had been much curiosity around the three segments as BJP leaders were confident that the issues they had raised ahead of the election – such as alleged irregularities in MUDA involving the Chief Minister and the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation 'scam', besides the waqf land row – would have turned the tide in their favour.

But the results have shown that neither the BJP nor its ally, the JD(S), could gain significantly from those campaigns. This is being blamed on the party's failure to strengthen its cadre. It is no secret that BJP top leaders have been concerned about the party's cadre, once its hallmark, becoming weak. In fact, many workers in the party have said that the BJP, when in power, had distanced itself from them.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra addressing the media on Saturday.

Though strengthening the cadre was top on the agenda of party State president B.Y. Vijayendra when he took over the organisational responsibility about a year ago, the results show that there is a long way to go on that front.

Terming the defeat as a "caution bell", a section of leaders felt that the party would have to give priority to actively engaging workers if its State-level campaigns against the Congress government would have to make an impact.

An indecisive centre

Also, the indecisiveness of the BJP's central leadership in handling groupism in the State unit appears to have come in the way of strengthening the party organisation. Though the groups of dissidents and those owing allegiance to the State president are holding separate parleys, the central leadership is yet to take measures to end groupism by addressing the issue.

The byelection defeat has now given a handle to the disgruntled leaders in the party to up their ante against Mr. Vijayendra. One such leader, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, has already demanded a change in leadership.

Apart from these organisational issues, the byelections have also shown that the BJP lacks a hold on backward classes as the party and its ally could have fared better if it had managed to attract a sizeable chunk of OBC voters.

Sons of ex-CMs in fray

Some of the BJP leaders feel that the party and its ally allowing two former Chief Ministers to field their sons in the byelections may not have gone well with its supporters at a time when the party is attacking the Congress over "dynastic politics". The manner in which two former Chief Ministers, H.D. Kumaraswamy and Basavaraj Bommai, allowed their sons to enter the fray at the last minute without proper preparations is also being seen as one of the reasons for the defeat.

It is beyond doubt that the defeat has hit the morale of the party and its ally at a time when they were trying to escalate the attack on the Congress government in general and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in particular over various issues.

Reddy loses proxy war with Lad

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Though the formal contest was between Congress candidate E. Annapurna and BJP candidate Bangaru Hanumantha in the Sandur Assembly constituency byelection, the real fight was between Labour Minister Santosh Lad and BJP leader Gali Janardhana Reddy who led the intensive campaigns from the front for their respective parties.

The byelection was very crucial for Mr. Reddy to prove his strength and restore his supremacy in the district. Barred by the court from entering Ballari district in connection with illegal mining cases, Mr. Reddy had remained outside the district for around 13 years. It was a few days before the announcement of the Sandur byelection that he was relieved of the restriction by the Supreme Court.

His prolonged absence had considerably eroded his support base in the district and the relief from the Supreme Court was an opportunity to restore his lost ground in the district and position in the party. He did everything possible to make it.

However, Mr. Lad left no stone unturned to counter this.

The Sandur contest thus turned out to be a proxy war between these two mining barons. And, Mr. Reddy had to bow at the end as Lad-backed Congress candidate Ms. Annapurna emerged victorious by a margin of 9,649 votes in the closely fought contest.

History repeats with Bommai Jr.

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

The defeat of Bharath Bommai in the Shiggaon byelection on Saturday reminded one of a similar defeat that his father faced in his first election.

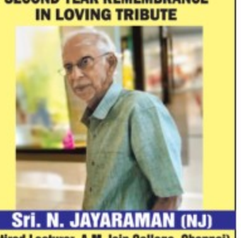
It was in 1994 that Basavaraj Bommai, son of former Chief Minister late S.R. Bommai, contested his first Assembly election from the Hubballi Rural Assembly constituency as the united Janata Dal candidate. Opposite him was the then political greenhorn, Jagadish Shettar, from the BJP. Belying all expectations, Mr. Basavaraj Bommai suffered a crushing defeat in the election.

Thirty years later, after much water has flown under the bridge, Mr. Bharath Bommai finds himself in a similar situation. His father, now in the party which handed out defeat to him in his first election, has won from the same constituency four times in a row. Though Bommai junior was expected to easily sail through, he lost against Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, comparatively a lesser-known personality. Mr. Jagadish Shettar, who had defeated Mr. Basavaraj Bommai once, had campaigned for Mr. Bharath Bommai in Shiggaon.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND YEAR REMEMBRANCE
IN LOVING TRIBUTE



Sri. N. JAYARAMAN (NJ)
(Retired Lecturer, A.M Jain College, Chennai)
Every day, your unseen presence guides our decisions. It feels as if you walk beside us, offering wisdom at every turn. We deeply miss you, but your legacy continues to propel us forward with strength and love.
Wife: Jayam, Sons: Karthik & Ganesh, Daughters-in-law: Ramya & Jayashree, Grandsons: Vidyuth, Prahlad and Suhruth, Brother: Mohan & Sister: Meena

Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra celebrating Wayanad byelection victory, in New Delhi on Saturday. X/@AICC

Priyanka wins Wayanad poll with a thumping majority

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA/KOCHI

There were no red flags on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's way. She maintained a comfortable lead from the start of the counting of votes to the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and never once did her victory look uncertain.

At the close, the Congress scion clinched her maiden election win by posting a margin of 4,10,931 votes over her closest rival, Sathyan Mokeri of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

Ms. Vadra polled 6,22,338 votes, while Mokeri received 2,11,407 votes. BJP candidate Navya Haridas finished third with 1,09,939 votes.

As such, from the time Ms. Vadra's candidature was announced by the Congress from the seat relinquished by her brother and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who had registered wins in both Wayanad and Rae Bareli in the general election, the only debate was over her margin of victory. While the Congress targeted a majority of five lakh votes, this appeared a bit daunting given that her brother's majority had dropped from 4.3 lakh votes in 2019 to about 3.6 lakh votes in this year election.

That the voter turnout fell to 64.72%, a decrease of 9% from the previous election and the lowest since the constituency's formation in 2009, gave the United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders a cause for concern. However, the drop in poll percentage seemed to have affected Mr. Mokeri and Ms. Haridas more.

For the CPI, specifically, the result was a dampener. By fielding Mr. Mokeri, who gave the Congress's M.I. Shanavas a run for his money in Wayanad in 2014, the party was hoping to see a better result.

70,000 votes less

Mr. Mokeri polled some 70,000 votes less than CPI's Annie Raja secured early this year and over 1.4 lakh less than what he had polled in 2014..

Bypoll defeat casts shadow on JD(S) and Nikhil's career

The party, in its initial assessment, believes that consolidation of Muslim votes along with SC and backward classes electors favouring the Congress hurt its prospects in Channapatna

Sharath S. Srivatsa
RAMANAGARA

JD(S) supporters shouting slogans near the counting centre at Ramanagara in Karnataka on Saturday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The last bastion of the Janata Dal (Secular) in Ramanagara district, a key area in the Vokkaliga heartland politics, has been breached by the Congress with a resounding victory of its candidate C.P. Yogeshwar in Channapatna constituency. The loss by over 26,000 votes in its stronghold has not only stunned the JD(S) but has also brought gloom to the fledgling political career of Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who with the defeat in Channapatna on Saturday has hit an undesirable "hat trick of defeats".

Drawing an analogy from the Mahabharata, the JD(S) had compared 36-year-old Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy to Abhimanyu caught in the 'Chakravyuha' due to deceit and conspiracies. They had pinned hopes on him emerging victorious in his third electoral outing, but that was not to be as the Channapatna results reveal. The defeat has put a question mark over the political future of the actor-turned-politician, though he said on Saturday that the loss would not deter his political ambitions.

Probable reasons

Though the JD(S), which saw an erosion of voter base as well as seats in its traditional strongholds during the 2023 Assembly elections, is yet to assess the reason for the debacle, the regional party in its initial assessment believes that consolidation of Muslim votes along with electors from the Scheduled Castes and backward classes favouring the Congress hurt its prospects. Party sources acknowledged that a perception among the backward communities that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could be replaced in case of a Congress defeat consolidated the community votes. On the other hand, the JD(S) joining BJP-led NDA drove away Muslims votes.

A high dependence on the Vokkaliga vote bank hurt the party, as another source pointed out that the party failed to assess an alternative to Muslim votes to boost numbers, while the Vokkaliga votes split. The active participation of the entire JD(S) machinery and leaders from the backward classes and Scheduled Castes in the BJP during the electioneering did not bring votes to the party. In fact, in an election where the turnout increased by nearly 3% to 88.81%, the number of votes polled by Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy in absolute terms came down to 87,229 in comparison with 96,592 polled by his father, H.D. Kumaraswamy, current Union Minister, in 2023. In comparison, Mr. Yogeshwar's vote share went up from 80,667 in 2023 to 1,12,642 in the byelection.

Shedding of tears by Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy, visible all along the campaign, could not sway the voters, though it became an intense talking point. The uncharitable remarks of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan on Mr. Kumaraswamy's skin colour did not hurt the Congress's chances. Mr. Yogeshwar's decision to shift party loyalties at the last moment did not affect him either. Over the months, 13 local JD(S) councillors defected to the Congress.

According to a JD(S) source, it is yet to assess if the BJP managed to transfer its votes from whatever little presence it has in the constituency. After a drubbing that the Congress received in the Old Mysore region in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, it has managed to redeem itself with a win in Channapatna.

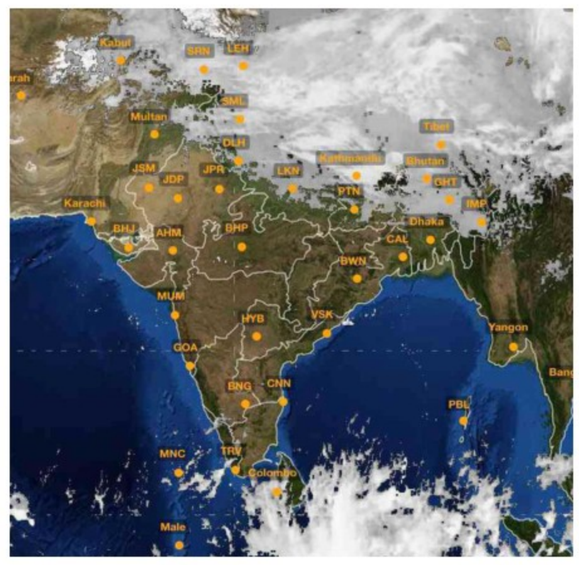
At stake in the intensely fought election was the prestige and leadership of two warring Vokkaliga leaders – Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Mr. Kumaraswamy, both fighting for the leadership role in the Vokkaliga community. Many among the Congress workers see the Channapatna results as settling the leadership issue, though the JD(S) believes the setback is temporary.

Gowda's role

The repeated attack on Mr. Siddaramaiah by the nonagenarian former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, who campaigned for his grandson despite his advanced age, has also been seen as a factor that brought the backward classes together. While the Vokkaligas – even among the Congress cadre – acknowledge Mr. Gowda as the towering leader, they see him promoting his family as diminishing his appeal. Mr. Gowda's popularity, however, could not ensure his grandson's victory.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Squally weather with wind speed 35 kmph to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevailing over most parts of southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining parts of southwest Bay of Bengal and Andaman sea

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	16.4	Kozhikode	—	35.2	26.9
Ahmedabad	—	31.1	15.7	Kurnool	—	31.3	18.1
Aizawl	—	26.6	16.0	Lucknow	—	27.6	12.1
Allahabad	—	28.3	15.4	Madurai	—	31.7	23.1
Bengaluru	—	28.3	17.7	Mangaluru	—	34.6	23.6
Bhopal	—	27.7	8.8	Mumbai	—	33.5	19.1
Bhubaneswar	—	29.5	15.4	Mysuru	—	29.9	18.2
Chandigarh	—	26.5	10.9	New Delhi	—	29.4	11.4
Chennai	—	30.5	24.0	Patna	—	26.6	15.9
Coimbatore	—	30.2	21.2	Port Blair	—	30.7	26.3
Dehradun	—	25.6	10.5	Puducherry	—	29.0	23.2
Gangtok	0.4	13.3	10.3	Pune	—	33.3	17.4
Goa	—	32.0	23.0	Raipur	—	29.2	14.9
Guwahati	—	28.3	16.4	Ranchi	—	24.8	11.8
Hubballi	—	31.0	16.0	Shillong	—	16.8	7.5
Hyderabad	—	29.0	15.4	Shimla	—	19.6	9.4
Imphal	—	25.2	16.8	Srinagar	—	12.3	2.5
Jaipur	—	28.5	13.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	25.1
Kochi	—	31.8	26.0	Tiruchi	—	30.7	23.4
Kohima	1	18.4	8.6	Vijayawada	—	31.0	20.4
Kolkata	—	28.4	19.1	Visakhapatnam	—	30.2	22.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..42	.46	...287	...148	
Bengaluru	.11	..21	.48	...100	...119	
Chennai	.16	..30	.66	...283	...158	
Delhi	.17	146	101	...426	...419	
Hyderabad	...9	..26	.48	...257	.....—	
Kolkata	.16	..92	.38	...250	...193	
Lucknow	.10	..37	.96	...289	...234	
Mumbai	.12	124	.61	...214	...174	
Pune	..—	150	.25	...234	...163	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..48	.44	...159	...115	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 412 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2024-25/2044 Date:21.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites tender for HSDPKG-06: Improvements of 7 main roads, 8 internal roads and installation of solar lights in 8 mining effected villges of Hosadurga Taluk, under the head of account of KMERC for the Estimated Cost Rs: 6003.00Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:- **(1)** Date of Pre Bid meeting Date: 11.12.2024 : Time : 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for information any quarries Date: 21.12.2024 : Time : 11.00 **(3)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 23.12.2024 : Time : 16.00 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 24.12.2024 : Time : 16.01 **(5)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 26.12.2024 : Time : 16.02
Bi Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.388:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga**

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2024-25/2045 Date:21.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under KW-1,2,3,4 under various for the year 2023-24 for 02 works for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs. 10.00 lakhs Maximum 100.00 lakhs Total Rs:110.00 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-
(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 27.11.2024 : Time : 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 28.11.2024 : Time : 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 29.11.2024 : Time : 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 30.11.2024 : Time : 16.02
Bi Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.387:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga**

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

No.: KST/CO/S&P/1465/2024-25 Date:23.11.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 05 Dated:23/11/2024

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipment:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17.00hrs
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0153	Procurement of Maplitho Paper required for printing of tickets & stationery	4.00	23/12/2024
	SHORT TERM TENDER		
KSRTC/2024-25/SE1356	Selection of third party Audit agency for managing the transactions & providing web based application with end- to –end online process for KSRTC Health Scheme.	0.50	30/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0154	Procurement of PVC Cards for Health Scheme	0.10	30/11/2024

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 0802230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (Contact: 7760990225, 7760990224).

Sd/-
CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/3409/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated to purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owner **Smt N. Vanamala @ Vanamala Navaratna W/o Sri Jayateertha Rao Ramachandra Rao Murittige,** R/a No.39, Sri Lakshmi Narashima Nilaya, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/ instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, **within 10 days** of the issuance of this notice, failing which my clients will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing No.39, now comes under the BBMP limits, BBMP Katha No. 37/39 in 2nd Stage, Kengeri Extension, Bengaluru measuring East to West:60 Feet and North to South:40 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet and bounded as follows:- **ON THE EAST** : Property bearing Site No.29; **WEST** : Road; **NORTH** : Property bearing Site No.40; **SOUTH** :Property bearing Site No.38.

(PAVAN G.N), Advocate,
O/a No.8, SUNAGA ARCADE, 1st Main,
8th Cross, 3rd Floor, Sampangiramanagar,
Opp. To Srirama Mandira,Bengaluru- 560 027,
Mob. No. 9900003663.

THE HINDU
There is a date that has a special place in your heart.
INDIA TAKES THE WORLD CUP IN GRAND STYLE
JSS PUBLIC SCHOOL SAGE
CBI charge sheet indicts Raja, corporate bigwigs, 3 firms
Farm inputs to be supplied by May 15
Now give it special place in your home!
Scan the code to relive your favourite day, every day!
https://newsth.live/framepage

The triumph of the incumbents

The Mahayuti's heady cocktail of welfarism and Hindutva found takers across sections to help it sweep Maharashtra but the INDIA bloc kept the BJP's aggressive nativism at bay, thanks to strong support among Adivasis, Dalits and minorities. The Mahayuti reversed the losses recorded in the 2024 LS polls across Vidarbha and rural areas in Maharashtra while the JMM-led INDIA bloc gained seats in both tribal and non-tribal areas, paving way for resounding wins. **By Samreen Wani, Nitika Francis, Sambavi Parthasarathy, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Srinivasan Ramani**

BJP-led Mahayuti dominant across regions, urban-rural divides

MAHARASHTRA

The Mahayuti coalition's strong victory - 234 out of the 288 seats (Table 1) - was made possible due to a humongous 14 point lead in vote shares (49.3% to 35.2%, Table 2) over the Maha Vikas Aghadi. This marked a remarkable turnaround from the Lok Sabha elections - then the MVA held a slender 1.3 point lead (46.3% vs 45%) over the Mahayuti. However, a 11 point drop in terms of vote share for the MVA and a four point increase for the ruling coalition in the assembly polls was enough for the latter to sail through with a thumping victory.

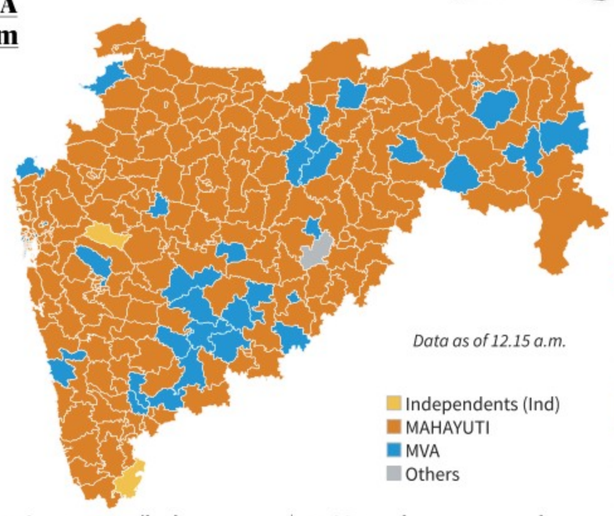
The Mahayuti dominated the north Maharashtra (where the MVA's support took a steep 16.4 point fall), Konkan and western Maharashtra regions with more than 50% vote shares (Table 3). The performances in Mumbai-Thane (49%) and Vidarbha (48.1%) was not far behind. But the coalition marked its highest increase in vote share (11.8 points) since the LS election in the Marathwada region - the

The Mahayuti secured more votes than the MVA in seats with high Muslim presence

hub of the Maratha reservation protests - as the coalition's ploy to field Maratha candidates paid dividends. Opinion polls had already indicated a decisive edge for the coalition among OBC voters. These numbers from the rural/semi-rural agrarian hubs of Maharashtra suggest that the Mahayuti was able to overcome the farmer anger that was visible in the Lok Sabha election. The coalition did the best in semi-urban constituencies (51.9% vs 32.4% for the MVA: Table 4) while the MVA's significant drop in support in urban seats (by 11.1 points) was helpful for the Mahayuti's rich harvest of 32 seats. The class divide did not matter; after seats were mapped to districts and ordered in terms of net district domestic product, data showed that the Mahayuti had a strong lead over the MVA across all kinds of districts (Table 5). Did welfare measures like the Ladki Bahin Scheme help in the Mahayuti's rich harvest? This question is best answered by exit/post polls. But it must be said that there was a significant increase in women turnout in this assembly elections compared to the 2019 election - 65.2% of registered women voters turned out compared to 59.3% in 2019 for an increase of nearly six points. Men voters turned up higher by 4.1 points. The higher participation - with anecdotal evidence pointing to a high number of women benefitting from the scheme - suggests that the welfare scheme could have been a reason for the coalition's performance.

The MVA's decline was also stark in seats with a high Muslim presence - at least 20% of those in the electorate who had Muslim names in the 2014 elections. Here, the coalition's support fell 14.2 points to 37.9% even as the Mahayuti's share increased by 4.4 points to 40% (Table 6). Among the constituent parties of the coalitions, the BJP's strike rate - the number of seats it won as a percentage of the ones it contested - was the highest (132/149, i.e. 89.3%). The party's closest ideological ally in the State, the Shiv Sena was not too far behind (57/81, 70.4%) while the purported weak link of the coalition, the NCP defied expectations winning 41 out of the 59 seats (69.5%). Turning the tables from the Lok Sabha elections, the Ajit Pawar led party was able to do so at the detriment of its splinter outfit, the NCP(SP) which could only win 10 seats for a strike rate of 11.6%.

The NCP's ability to retain the legislator and leaders' corps after its split and using its position in governance to expand welfare benefits and win support helped it upend the NCP(SP), something that was also managed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena over the SS(UBT).



1. Seats won/led

The Mahayuti recorded a massive victory, increasing its seat tally to 234. The MVA on the other hand secured only 50 seats

Alliance	2024 AE	↑↓
MVA	**50**	-103
Mahayuti	**234**	109
Ind.	**2**	-4
Others	**2**	-2

PARTY-WISE SEATS WON/LED

MVA: SS(UBT): 20, INC: 16, NCP(SP): 10, SP: 2, PWP: 1, CPI(M): 1

Mahayuti: BJP: 132, SHS: 57, NCP: 41, JSS: 2, Rashtriya Yuva Swabhiman Party: 1, RSVA: 1

2. Vote share secured

The Mahayuti secured a vote share of nearly 50% in the State. The MVA's vote share declined by 11 percentage points (pp)

Alliance	2024 AE	↑↓
MVA	**35.2%**	-11.1pp
Mahayuti	**49.3%**	4.3pp
Ind	**7.2%**	4.8pp
Others	**8.3%**	2.1pp

PARTY-WISE VOTE SHARE

MVA | INC: 12.4%, CPI(M): 0.3%, SS(UBT): 10%, NCP(SP): 11.3%, SP: 0.4%, PWP: 0.8%

Mahayuti | BJP: 26.8%, SHS: 12.4%, NCP: 9%, JSS: 0.6%, Rashtriya Yuva Swabhiman Party: 0.3%, RSVA: 0.2%

3. Region-wise vote share

The table shows vote share secured by alliances across regions in %. The change from 2024 LS polls (↑↓) is given in percentage points

	MVA		Mahayuti		Others	
Region	2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓
Konkan	39.5%	-4.1	50.9%	2.3	9.6%	1.8
Marathwada	35.7%	-8.1	45.3%	11.8	19%	-3.7
Mumbai Thane	34.1%	-7.1	49%	0.6	16.9%	6.5
North Maha.	28.5%	-16.4	53.5%	8.1	18%	8.3
Vidarbha	36.1%	-9.4	48.1%	6.4	15.8%	3
Western Maha.	37.1%	-7.1	50.7%	7.3	12.2%	-0.1

METHODOLOGY:

- Data for the maps and tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India. The urban-rural classification was done by aggregating night light intensity data on assembly constituencies, provided by the SHRUG database from the Development Data Lab.
- Seats with High Muslim population were identified based on estimations by Raphael Susewind using electoral rolls data.
- The shapefiles for maps were sourced from Datameet

4. Urban-rural vote share

Area-wise vote share secured (in %) in the 2024 Assembly polls and the change (↑↓ in percentage points) from 2024 Lok Sabha polls

	MVA		Mahayuti		Others	
Area	2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓
Urban	36.6%	-11.1	47.1%	0.3	16.3%	10.9
Semi Urban	32.4%	-7.4	51.9%	4	15.7%	3.4
Semi Rural	37.4%	-7.1	49.5%	8.4	13.1%	-1.4
Rural	34.7%	-9.9	48.4%	8.9	16.9%	0.9

5. Vote shares across districts by income

Vote share secured by the alliances across districts classified by income in the 2024 AE and the change (↑↓) from the 2024 GE (in percentage points)

	MVA		Mahayuti		Others	
Class	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
Very Rich	34.7%	-10.55	50.1%	0.28	15.2%	10.27
Rich	37.8%	-3.16	51%	2.93	11.2%	0.23
Middling	34.8%	-14.99	49.2%	6.96	16%	8.02
Poor	33.5%	-12.98	48.5%	5.80	18%	7.18
Very poor	37.9%	-9.82	46.7%	6.24	15.4%	3.58

6A. Votes secured in seats with high Muslim presence

Votes secured by alliances, in 2024 AE, in the 31 constituencies with Muslim population over 20%, and the change from 2024 GE (↑↓)

MVA		Mahayuti		Others	
2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓	2024 AE	↑↓
37.9%	-14.2	40%	4.4	22.1%	9.8

6B: Seats led (high Muslim presence)

Seats won/led by alliances, in 2024 AE, in the 31 constituencies with Muslim population over 20%, and the change from 2024 GE (↑↓)

MVA		Mahayuti		Others	
AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
12	-12	18	13	1	-1

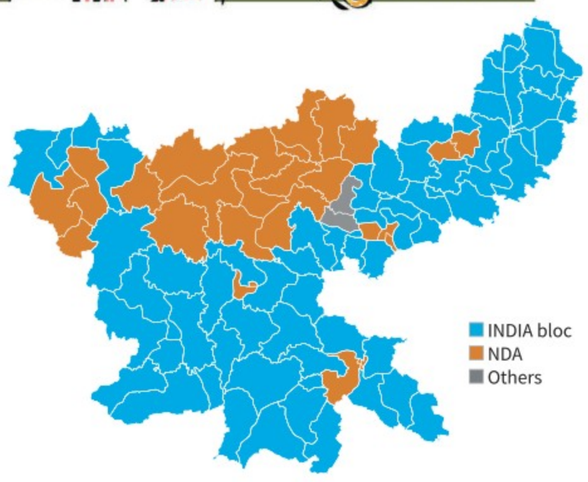
All-round show helps JMM-led INDIA bloc win with increased majority

JHARKHAND

In a rare victory for a non-BJP led coalition that is an incumbent in government in North India, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha led alliance not only retained power in the State but also managed to increase its seat (by nine) and vote shares (by 9% points) compared to the 2019 Assembly elections (Tables 1, 2). These gains were largely due to decreases in support for third/unaligned parties.

The JMM's performance was the strongest (34 wins of the 43 contested: 79% strike rate), but its allies were no slouches either indicating a decent allocation of seats by the INDIA bloc.

In contrast, the BJP's ally, the AJSUP won only one of the 10 seats it contested.



In seats reserved for SCs, the INDIA bloc improved its vote share by a whopping 11 points

The BJP led alliance won in the urban areas (49% to the INDIA bloc's 40.4%: Table 7) but in other locales, the INDIA bloc came up trumps, with its vote share going up progressively as the milieu turned more rural.

The story of the election must be the INDIA bloc's performance in the north eastern region of Santhal Pargana abutting West Bengal (Table 6).

The ruling coalition managed a 52.2% vote share (Table 6) and won 17 out of the 18 seats in a region where the BJP's "infiltration from Bangladesh" pitch was at its shrillest. Except for North Chotanagpur where the NDA won 14 seats to the INDIA bloc's 10, the ruling coalition won every other region. In the Kolhan region in the south, the INDIA bloc secured 46.1% votes, 3.4 points more than in 2019. The NDA led here during the LS poll, but was behind by eight seats (3 vs 11) compared to the INDIA bloc, marking a turnaround. In Palamu, the INDIA bloc forged ahead, winning five seats to the NDA's four. The JMM led alliance increased its vote share by 10.1 points while the NDA's went up by nearly a point, helping the former in seat terms.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2019 Assembly elections, the INDIA bloc had won/led in most Schedule Tribe reserved seats/segments. This hegemony continued in this election, with the bloc winning 50.7% of the votes (Table 3) and 27 out of the 28 seats (Table 4). It also gained in the nine SC reserved seats by winning five of them, again trumping the NDA in vote share - 44% vs 40.1%. The NDA was only able to gain in the unreserved seats (by two seats since 2019 to win 19) but even there the INDIA bloc came up trumps, winning 24.

1. Seats won/led

The INDIA bloc recorded a resounding victory by increasing its tally to 56, an increase of 9 seats compared with 2019 AE

Alliance	2024 AE	↑↓
INDIA bloc	**56**	9
NDA	**24**	-1
Others	**1**	-8

PARTY-WISE SEATS WON/LED

INDIA bloc: JMM: 34, INC: 16, RJD: 4

NDA: BJP: 21, AJSUP: 1, JD(U): 1,LJP(RV): 1

2. Vote share

Both the INDIA bloc and NDA gained vote share at the expense of the parties not aligned with the major coalitions

Alliance	2024 AE	↑↓
INDIA bloc	**44.3%**	9
NDA	**38.1%**	4
Others	**17.6%**	-13

PARTY-WISE VOTE SHARE

INDIA bloc: INC: 15.6%, JMM: 23.4%, RJD: 3.4%, CPI(ML)(L): 1.9%

NDA: BJP: 33.2%, AJSUP: 3.5%, JD(U): 0.8%, LJP(RV): 0.6%

3. Vote share secured across seat types

Vote share secured (in %) by alliances across seat-types in the 2024 polls and the change (↑↓) from 2019 polls (in percentage points)

	INDIA bloc		NDA		Others	
Seat-type	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
ST	50.7%	7.7	35.1%	0.8	14.3%	-8.4
SC	44%	11.6	40.1%	2.5	15.9%	-14.1
Gen	41.3%	9.1	39.2%	5.9	19.4%	-15.1

4. Seats won/led across constituency-types

Seats led by alliances across seat-types in the 2024 elections and the change (↑↓) from 2019 polls

	INDIA bloc		NDA		Others	
Seat-type	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
ST	27	2	1	-1	0	-1
SC	5	2	4	-2	0	0
Gen	24	5	19	2	1	-7

5. ST reserved seats across regions

Region-wise split of constituencies led/won by alliances across seats reserved for STs in the 2024 AE and the change (↑↓) from the 2019 AE

	INDIA bloc		NDA		Others	
Regions	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
Santhal Pargana	7	0	0	0	0	0
North Chotanagpur	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kolhan	8	-1	1	1	0	0
South Chotanagpur	11	3	0	-2	0	-1
Palamu	1	0	0	0	0	0

6. Vote share secured across regions

Vote share secured by alliances across regions in the 2024 polls (in %) and the change (↑↓) from the 2019 polls (in percentage points)

	INDIA bloc		NDA		Others	
Region	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
Santhal Pargana	52.2	12.6	38.3	1.5	9.5	-14.1
North Chotanagpur	38.3	8	39.7	7	21.9	-15
Kolhan	46.1	3.4	36	5.3	17.8	-8.8
South Chotanagpur	48.2	10.8	37.6	2.4	14.2	-13.2
Palamu	39	10.1	36.8	0.9	24.2	-11

7. Vote share secured across areas

The table shows the vote share secured by alliances across areas in the 2024 polls and the change (↑↓) from the 2019 polls (in percentage points)

	INDIA bloc		NDA		Others	
Area	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓	AE	↑↓
Urban	40.4	3.4	49	5.3	10.6	-8.7
Semi-urban	42.1	6.8	39.9	0.2	18	-7
Semi-rural	44.6	11.2	35.7	7.2	19.7	-18.4
Rural	45.8	9.6	37	3.5	17.2	-13.1

Maharashtra elections: BJP tightens grip on Vidarbha

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) further cemented its base in Vidarbha, winning 37 of the 62 Assembly seats in the Maharashtra region. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance captured a total of 48 seats in the region, showcasing its strength.

The BJP swept Nagpur district, home to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters, including the high-profile Nagpur South-West constituency held by Devendra Fadnavis, the former Chief Minister and current Deputy Chief Minister of the State.

Mr. Fadnavis secured a convincing victory from Nagpur South-West, defeating Congress rival Praful Gudadhe-Patil by a margin of 39,710 votes. The Congress, meanwhile, managed to win only nine seats in Vidarbha, while the Congress and its allies collectively won 13 seats.

The Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi (VBA), led by Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, failed to secure a single seat in the region.

"This shows that the OBCs are back with the BJP, and *Ladki Bahins* have given them their support," Devendra Gavande, Resident Editor of *Loksatta* in Nagpur, said.

"Historically, the party that wins Vidarbha goes on to form the government in Maharashtra. This is why top leaders from all parties actively campaigned here," Mr. Gavande told *The Hindu*.

He also said that the road to power in Mumbai runs through Vidarbha.

BJP defies odds to register stellar win in Marathwada

Several factors led to its position solidifying among the electorate, thus winning more seats than in 2019; anti-incumbency trend was visible on the ground but MVA could not convert it into votes

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Mahayuti not only defused the potential impact of the Maratha reservation agitation on its voter base in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra but also set up a historic win in the region in the fiercely contested Assembly election.

The BJP-led alliance won 40 of the 46 seats in Marathwada, while the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) managed to secure only five.

Narratives such as "*Batenge toh katenge* (divided we fall)" and "*Ek hain toh* safe *hain* (united we are safe)" have prevented the Maratha quota issue, spearheaded by activist Manoj Jarange Patil, from affecting the Mahayuti's chances.

The quota issue had an impact in the Lok Sabha election in which it lost seven of the eight seats in the region. The trend has now reversed with the BJP getting 18 Assembly seats, NCP nine, and Shiv Sena 13.

The BJP has won against the Shiv Sena (UBT) even in seats such as Hingoli and Partur, where sympathy for Uddhav Thackeray's party over the split in the Sena was evident.

The Congress ended up with just one seat in Latur, and the Shiv Sena (UBT) won three. The NCP(SP) won the Beed seat, taking the MVA total to five seats.

In the 2019 Assembly election, the BJP won 16 seats, the undivided Shiv Sena 12, undivided NCP eight and Congress eight, while two seats were taken by Independents.

Resounding victory: The ruling Mahayuti alliance made a strong comeback in the Assembly elections, reversing its setback in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year. ANI

Rollout of schemes

The ruling Mahayuti alliance made a strong comeback after the dent in the Lok Sabha election held in the summer.

Several factors led to its position solidifying among the electorate, and a major reason has been schemes such as the Ladki Bahin Yojana and the Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana, which pacified the anger of soya bean and cotton farmers.

Consolidation of the Other Backward Class (OBC) vote against the Maratha quota demand is visible with the victory of NCP-Ajit Pawar leader Dhananjay Munde from the Parli constituency in Beed district. His cousin and BJP leader Pankaja Munde had lost from the Beed constituency in the Lok Sabha election.

The victory in Marathwada has gone beyond caste calculations and the reasons for this are multifaceted.

"The BJP strategically chose its candidates and placed Independents to divide the votes. This is part of micro-managing. The BJP and RSS cadres work on a micro-level. They created an 'undercurrent wave' that none of us could sense," said Suhas Kulkarni, a political observer.

For instance, the Congress lost the Nanded South seat by 2,132 votes, whereas the Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi (VBA) candidate, Farooque Ahmed, secured over 30,000 votes and an Independent 15,454 votes.

Political analysts also credited Mahayuti's execution of the flagship Ladki Bahin scheme, successfully crediting ₹7,000 in the accounts of women beneficiaries rather than giving any electoral assurances.

They also pointed out that the MVA failed because the alliance could not set a narrative.

The Mahayuti, through its campaign strategies, triumphed on contentious issues of "cash, caste, and crop"that mattered in Marathwada.

On the ground, the anti-incumbency trend was visible, but the MVA could not capitalise on it. Mr. Jarange Patil's agitation, tagged as the 'Jarange factor', failed to work a charm for the MVA this time.

RSS ran a silent campaign and made it a priority to engage urban voters

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mothership of the BJP, played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome of the Maharashtra Assembly election. Unlike its relatively subdued involvement in the Lok Sabha election, the RSS adopted a more proactive approach this time, reflecting the stakes at hand.

Maharashtra holds symbolic and strategic importance for the organisation as its headquarters is in Nagpur in the State. Losing this State would have been a major blow to its influence and ideological objectives.

While the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance emerged victorious, the RSS's contribution went far beyond symbolic support. Staying true to its tradition of operating behind the scenes, the Sangh focused on silent yet effective voter mobilisation efforts, particularly in urban centres such as Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur.

"The RSS recognised the importance of ensuring a high voter turnout in cities where its influence is deeply rooted," a senior RSS functionary said. "Our role was to create awareness and encourage voters to come out and make their voice heard."

This involved extensive groundwork by RSS cadres, who leveraged their network of *shakhas* (branches) and affiliated organisations to reach out to communities at the grassroots level. It also capitalised on its apolitical yet influential image to attract fence-sitters who might not have been swayed by conventional party campaigns. This approach was particularly effective in countering the Opposition's narrative.

One of the major challenges in urban constituencies is voter apathy, which often skews election outcomes. The RSS, aware of this trend, made it a priority to engage urban voters, stressing the importance of "stability and development" under the BJP-led government. Through door-to-door campaigns, community meetings, and informal gatherings, the Sangh successfully conveyed its message without overtly associating itself with political campaigning.

The results reflected this effort, with urban centres witnessing a noticeable increase in voter turnout. This surge played a critical role in consolidating support for the Mahayuti, particularly among middle-class voters who are crucial for the coalition's electoral success.

The Sangh, which was "upset" with Mr. Ajit Pawar's inclusion in the alliance, showed its discomfort soon after the Lok Sabha poll results when an article in its mouthpiece *Organiser* attributed the BJP's lacklustre performance to its alliance with the NCP. Similarly, the RSS-linked Marathi weekly *Vivek* echoed these sentiments, asserting that public opinion had soured against the BJP following its 2023 tie-up with the NCP. Even the Shiv Sena has been less than friendly toward Mr. Ajit Pawar as many leaders have made critical remarks about the NCP, further straining the relationship within the ruling coalition.

The RSS's involvement came with a clear caveat: Devendra Fadnavis should lead the State if the Mahayuti were to win, another senior functionary told *The Hindu*, asking for anonymity as they work "behind the scenes". "The BJP is the single largest party, and the next CM will be from the party," he said.

The victory in Maharashtra is not just a win for the Mahayuti but also a reaffirmation of the RSS's ability to shape political narratives and outcomes, he said.

Time to rejoice: BJP workers celebrate the Mahayuti's decisive lead in the Maharashtra Assembly election in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Uddhav expresses disbelief over result

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Saturday described the Maharashtra Assembly election results as "unexpected and unimaginable".

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray questioned the basis of public support for the Mahayuti, citing unresolved issues such as the plight of soya bean farmers, industries shifting to Gujarat, concerns over women's safety, rising inflation, and crop loan waivers. "Why have people voted for the Mahayuti? These results are not just a 'wave' but a 'tsunami'," he said, expressing disbelief over the outcome.

Ramesh Chennithala, the Congress's Maharashtra in-charge, said the defeat of veterans such as Balasaheb Thorat and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan had shocked the Congress ranks. "Our cadre is shocked, and we will study these results thoroughly," he said.

Mr. Thackeray noted that though the chairs at the rallies of BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi were empty, people had voted for them. "Does it mean that people have already decided to vote for them, so they didn't attend the rallies," the former CM wondered.

The party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut alleged that there was a "big conspiracy". Adding that there was little doubt in his mind that money was used in the polls, Mr. Raut said, "How can all MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde win?"

Congress says Maharashtra result due to BJP's 'targeted manipulation'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

While congratulating the Jharkhand voters for defeating the "politics of polarisation" the Congress termed the Maha Vikas Aghadi's defeat in the Maharashtra Assembly election "unexpected". The party said it was a result of "targeted manipulation" by the BJP.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said the victory in Jharkhand of the JMM-led alliance was one for the protection of the Constitution and of water, forest and land. "Heartfelt thanks to the people of Jharkhand for giving a huge mandate to INDIA...," he wrote on X.

"The results of Maharashtra are unexpected and we will analyse those in detail," Mr. Gandhi said as he thanked the voters of the State for their support and all the party workers for their hard work.

He lauded his sister and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for her victory in the byelection to the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

At a press conference in the party headquarters, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh countered the Mahayuti leaders' contention that the Opposition had floated a "fake narrative" in the Lok Sabha election which did not work in the Assembly election.

"Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that the issues we raised during the Lok Sabha polls remain relevant and we shall continue to raise them," he said. The Congress, he said, will continue to talk about economic inequalities, communal polarisation, caste census and need to defend the Constitution. He called the Maharashtra results "very strange".

Pawan Khera, chairman of the party's media and publicity department, said, "The Lok Sabha election was fought in the name of PM Narendra Modi in Maharashtra, the BJP lost it. The same State gives the same BJP 132 out of 148 seats within four to five months. What kind of strike rate is this? ...Is this strike rate possible? Democracy is our concern. Electoral transparency is our concern. Can the BJP reverse anti-incumbency?"

Jairam Ramesh with Pawan Khera during a press conference in New Delhi after the declaration of the election results on Saturday. ANI

Shinde emerges as the true heir to Bal Thackeray's legacy

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Assembly election results on Saturday have provided a definitive answer to two questions that have dominated State politics for over two years – who represents the "real" Shiv Sena as the rightful inheritor of Bal Thackeray's legacy, and who holds the mantle of the "real NCP (Nationalist Congress Party)". With Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction and Ajit Pawar's camp securing a resounding mandate and a clear majority, the verdict from voters appears unequivocal.

Since Mr. Shinde's rebellion against his party chief and mentor Uddhav Thackeray in mid-2022, the battle for the Shiv Sena's identity and its founder's ideological mantle has dominated political discourse in Maharashtra.

Mr. Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) positioned itself as the custodian of Bal Thackeray's values, labelling Mr. Shinde and the leaders of his faction as "*gaddars*" (traitors), a key issue on which they fought this election. In contrast, Mr. Shinde's faction claimed to represent the grassroots Shiv Sainiks, arguing that Mr. Uddhav Thackeray's decision to align with the Congress and erstwhile NCP in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had diluted the party's original Hindutva ethos, in addition to claiming that they were the real "inheritors" of Bal Thackeray's ideology and the party.

Eknath Shinde

"I don't want to get into the 'real' and 'fake' debate. However, people gave a mandate to the Shiv Sena which inherited the ideology of Balasaheb... Shiv Sena is an ally of the BJP and has the same ideology. I can't stop them from talking, but people gave the mandate," Mr. Shinde said.

This election also established which the "real NCP" is, and who dominates western Maharashtra, the sugar belt, and the hub of cooperatives, namely dairy, education and banking. After Mr. Ajit Pawar's rebellion, his uncle, the NCP patriarch, Mr. Sharad Pawar, lamented what he called the erosion of ideological commitment in State politics, but his faction managed to win significantly less than the other faction, proving that his nephew had taken control of the sugar belt and other pockets across the State.

"This result clearly indicates that voters see Eknath Shinde as the torchbearer of Bal Thackeray's legacy," Sena's MLC Manisha Kayande told *The Hindu*. She said that Mr. Shinde had "released" the Shiv Sena's "bow and arrow" from the clutches of the Congress.

INDIA bloc stares at existential crisis after latest setback

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Just five months after the Lok Sabha election, in which the INDIA bloc won 30 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra and contributed to the BJP's reduced tally in the Lok Sabha, the Assembly election results announced on Saturday has thrown the alliance into an existential crisis.

The views within the coalition ranged from anger against the Congress, which is the largest constituent, to dismissing the bloc as an electoral grouping that has outlived its utility.

The doubts over a collection of ideologically heterogeneous and politically divergent parties, voiced by many even at the time of its birth in March 2023, have only grown stronger after two consecutive setbacks in Haryana and Maharashtra.

No meetings

The INDIA bloc has not had a meeting since the Lok Sabha results and its leaders have not appeared on a common platform. A Left leader said the group was primarily an electoral platform to avoid division of anti-BJP votes. It was largely successful to this end in the Lok Sabha election.

Doubts over its utility are stronger after two straight losses in Haryana and Maharashtra

A Samajwadi Party leader said the group's biggest achievement had been that its name always had "a recall". "The bloc has no joint programmes, has not evolved a joint strategy or a common agenda. It is not tied together in any way other than seat negotiations before elections," he said.

While giving credit to the INDIA bloc for its successful run in Jharkhand, senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha underlined that a coalition collective has a different "religion" that should be adhered to. "The Lok Sabha results carried a message for both us and the BJP, it seems we didn't even read the message," he said. He urged the INDIA bloc constituents to have regular meetings.

There is anger against the Congress for disproportionately dictating the agenda of the alliance, especially on issues such as a "caste census" regardless of whether it resonated with the electorate.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Polit Bureau and Central Committee coordinator Prakash Karat said the focus had changed in Maharashtra since the Lok Sabha election, which did not reflect in the Opposition's campaign.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said allies in the INDIA bloc must have mutual trust, and serious introspection was needed at this juncture.

He urged the Congress to be more accommodative.

The Trinamool Congress, which has always stood at a distance from the bloc, once again reiterated its stand.

"Trinamool convincingly won all six Assembly seats in West Bengal where byelections were held. Other than the BJP, we were also facing two of the INDIA bloc parties, Congress and CPI(M), which put up candidates in every seat. We do not have an electoral alliance with any party in the bloc, so this is not a question we need to answer," Derek O'Brien, Trinamool leader in the Rajya Sabha, said.

From Page One

Unprecedented sweep for Mahayuti alliance

While the MVA's dismal performance shocked its supporters, Congress State president Nana Patole won by a narrow margin, the Congress claimed, although the Election Commission website has not yet been updated about this. NCP SP leader and Sharad Pawar's grandnephew Rohit Pawar won his seat, while Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray successfully retained the Worli constituency in Mumbai.

The BJP's strike rate is unprecedented in Maharashtra since the 1980s. It contested 148 seats and won 132 of them, thereby giving it a strike rate of 89%. Among its alliance partners, the Shiv Sena won 56 seats, while the NCP won 41 seats.

JMM-led INDIA bloc triumphs in Jharkhand

Mr. Soren's impactful Maiya Samman Yojana, a cash transfer scheme of ₹1,000 per month, four instalments of which were provided before the election, drew women voters to the INDIA bloc.

Before the Jharkhand election, Mr. Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case.

Tribals and Muslims, considered the JMM's biggest vote banks, supported the INDIA bloc, leading to the JMM's highest vote share of nearly 24%.

The BJP's slogan of "*Batenge to katenge*" (divided, we will be destroyed) and "*Ek hain to* safe *hain*" (united, we are safe) has also backfired. Throughout the election campaign, the BJP focused on "Bangladeshi infiltration" and land-grabbing after marriage to tribal girls.

On the other hand, the JMM constantly maintained the BJP was dividing people on the lines of religion.

U.S. SEC summons Adani, his nephew

Mr. Adani, and seven other defendants, including his nephew, who is a director at the group's renewable energy unit Adani Green Energy Ltd., allegedly agreed to pay about $265 million in bribes to Indian government officials between approximately 2020 and 2024 to obtain lucrative solar energy supply contracts on terms that expected to yield $2 billion of profit over 20 years, according to an indictment unsealed in a New York court on Wednesday. Separately, from the indictment brought by the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. SEC has also charged the duo and Cyril Cabanes, an executive of Azure Power Global, for "conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme". The Adani Group has denied the allegations.

Finance deadlock takes COP29 to edge of failure

"We have temporarily walked out but remain interested in the talks until we get a fair deal," said Evan Njewa of Malawi, the LDC chair, in a post on X.

The newest version of a draft text that is being deliberated upon raised the NCQG goal to $300 billion a year, to be given to developing countries by 2035.

This was a hike from the $250 billion promised as on Friday, after an outcry by most of the countries and civil society groups on the ground. These numbers are still substantially lower, they say, than the $1.3 trillion expected from developed countries.

Ideology, welfare shape poll outcomes

Biggest takeaway from poll results in Jharkhand and Maharashtra is that women's income support schemes help accumulate voter base above caste and traditional categories; Mahayuti's success over MVA in fragmented political landscape of Maharashtra reiterates the role of ideology and legacy

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Making the cut: The results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand can give indicators to political parties on what works and what does not. PTI

The results of the Assembly elections in Jharkhand and Maharashtra cannot be seen as just a decider of who gets to form the next government in these States. The results have long-lasting implications as they settle several questions at least for the foreseeable future in the political discourse and highlight the ideas and narratives that find resonance with the people. They can act as a guide to political parties on what works and what does not.

Women and welfare

The biggest takeaway is the fact that both incumbent governments had announced income support schemes targeted at women – the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana in Maharashtra and Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana in Jharkhand are said to be the game changers of the elections.

In Maharashtra, polling among women was up by six percentage points from 59.2% in 2019 to 65.1% in 2024.

In Jharkhand too, more women voted than men across 32 Assembly constituencies. Overall too, more women voted than men in the State. The State, with a total of 2.61 crore registered voters, saw 1.76 crore people vote, with 91.16 lakh of them being women, exceeding male participation by 5.52 lakh votes.

Very clearly then, as in the past, women and welfare measures targeted at them can help accumulate a support base above caste and traditional categories.

Caste census

The BJP's victory in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the 2023 Assembly election was said to have closed the gate to the caste census as an issue, but in the Lok Sabha election of 2024, with the "Constitution is in danger" narrative among marginalised sections, the issue gained traction again. Vast swathes of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh saw marginalised sections vote for the INDIA bloc, especially with anxieties expressed over the BJP ending reservation if it got a huge majority at the Centre.

This issue was expected to hit the Assembly elections as well, but, seems to have ebbed.

What does this demonstrate? That the BJP, after missteps in the Lok Sabha election, has leveraged the OBC leadership it had cultivated and gained from the 1990s onwards through social engineering, and it has made gains from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal and the penetration of the RSS among the Scheduled Castes.

Historically, the BJP has been the party of the OBCs in Maharashtra, and that was reaffirmed in these polls.

The lesson for the Congress on the question of the caste census therefore is that it needs to first cultivate a credible OBC leadership within to grab the support base.

Without that, the demand for a caste census will be played out in the BJP narrative as a ploy to fragment Hindu votes and nothing else, an explanation perhaps as to why the "*Batenge toh Katenge* (divided we perish)" and "*Ek hai toh safe hai* (Together we are safe)" slogans worked.

Hindutva vote

The opportunistic toing and froing by several parties in Maharashtra created a fragmented political landscape, with welfare measures and local loyalties expected to help parties win and overcome was being seen as an erosion of ideology.

With the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) trumping the Shiv Sena (UBT) at the hustings, one aspect of the Hindutva vote – the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray – was decided, but what is even more significant is the contest in Vidarbha where the BJP and Congress went head to head. They were the only two parties that did not split and remained ideologically firm.

The former had bested the latter in the Lok Sabha election on the "Constitution is in danger" plank – this erosion of support among SCs, STs and OBCs was a blow to the Hindutva project as well, as support from these communities made Hindutva subaltern in character and wider in base, and the Hindu society less politically fragmented.

The BJP came up with the *Batenge toh Katenge* slogan to overcome this fragmentation of the Hindutva vote and worked hard to win back Dalit and ST votes, deploying Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Bhupendra Yadav months in advance.

In these polls, among the 75 head-to-head BJP versus Congress seats, the BJP won 64 and Congress nine, restoring the subaltern character of Hinduvta, and reiterated that politics, even in a fragmented poll, ran on ideology.

Ek hain toh safe hain is the spirit behind election victory, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

PM Modi, J.P. Nadda, Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah at BJP headquarters after the poll victory. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the win secured by the BJP and its allies in Maharashtra and substantial victories in bypolls in several States as one for "unity" and the spirit behind the slogan *'ek hain toh safe hain'* (united we remain safe).

The slogan, coined by the Prime Minister just before the start of the Maharashtra Assembly campaign, spoke to the BJP's call against the fragmentation of votes on the basis of castes, along with the Opposition's narrative that the BJP wanted a thumping majority in the Lok Sabha polls to make radical changes in the Constitution, which cost the party heavily then.

"The people of Maharashtra have loudly affirmed the spirit behind *'ek hain toh* safe *hain'*. This slogan has defeated those who sought to divide society into castes, religion, language, and handed out punishment to those who sought to divide society," he said during an address to BJP workers at the party headquarters after Saturday's results.

In an attack on the Congress, Mr. Modi said it had "betrayed" even the Supreme Court for appeasement politics, and a prime example was the Waqf Act. "The Constitution does not have any place for the Waqf Act, but the Congress enacted this for appeasement to safeguard their vote bank," he said.

The other big message of the mandate, he said, was that across the country, only one Constitution, framed by B.R. Ambedkar was acceptable.

"Whoever, whether manifestly or covertly, talks of two Constitutions, will be rejected by the people," he said, in reference to efforts by the newly sworn government of Jammu and Kashmir passing a resolution to restore Article 370, terming it "an insult to the Constitution".

"No power on earth can bring back Article 370. This poll in Maharashtra has exposed the hypocrisy of the MVA and INDIA bloc," he said.

He added that the people had addressed the "betrayal" of the Shiv Sena (UBT) in breaking its alliance with the BJP in 2019, and that the Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT) ally, had exposed the alliance's inorganic nature in never praising Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray or RSS ideologue V.D. Savarkar through these years.

Ruling fronts win most of the seats in Assembly bypolls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Yogi Adityanath celebrates after the BJP and its ally RLD won seven seats in Uttar Pradesh.

The ruling parties and alliances won most of the 48 Assembly seats in various States that witnessed byelections.

The ruling NDA in Assam won all the five seats where bypolls were held. In Dholai, Behali and Samguri, the BJP defeated Congress candidates. In Sidli, the United People's Party-Liberal candidate, Nirmal Kumar Brahma, defeated the Bodoland People's Front's candidate. The Congress finished third in this seat. In Bongaigaon, the Asom Gana Parishad won by defeating the Congress.

In Meghalaya, an NDA ally, the National People's Party, defeated the Trinamool Congress candidate. The Congress finished third.

In Bihar, the NDA performed well by winning all four Assembly seats - Tarai, Ramgarh, Imamganj and Belaganj - where byelections were held. The BJP won two (Tarai and Ramgarh) and its allies, the Janata Dal(U) and the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), won one seat each - Imamganj and Belaganj, respectively. In Ramgarh, the Rashtriya Janata Dal finished third. In Imamganj and Belaganjthe, the RJD came second and in Tarai, the RJD's ally, CPI(ML), came second.

In Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, the ruling BJP won the Raipur City (South) and Vav seats defeating Congress candidates.

In Karnataka, the ruling Congress won all the three seats that went to the polls. In Shiggaon and Sandur, the Congress defeated the BJP and in Channapatna, the party's C.P. Yogeeshwara defeated the Janata Dal(S) candidate, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

In the two seats in Kerala, the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) won Chelakkara and the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) won Palakkad. The BJP came second in the Palakkad constituency.

In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress (Vijaypur) and the BJP (Budhni) won one seat each.

In Punjab, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party won all the three seats - Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Gidderbaha. The Congress finished second in all three.

Elections were held to seven Assembly seats in Rajasthan. The ruling BJP won Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh, Deoli-Uniara, Khinwsar and Salumber. The Congress won Dausa and the Bharat Adivasi Party won Chorasi.

Uncontested seats

The ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha won both the Soreng Chakung and Namchi Singhithang seats uncontested.

In the nine Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the ruling BJP won six seats and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal won one seat. The Samajwadi Party won two seats. The BJP candidates emerged victorious in Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan and the RLD won Meerapur. The SP won Karhal and Sisamau.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress won all the six seats. The Trinamool candidates defeated BJP in five seats and All India Secular Front in one.

BJP's 'infiltration' rhetoric falls flat; NDA loses 27 of 28 ST-reserved seats

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Jharkhand Assembly election results declared on Saturday reveal that the Bharatiya Janata Party's rhetoric of "Bangladeshi infiltration" in the Santhal Pargana region failed to consolidate Scheduled Tribe voters in its favour, with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) losing 27 of the 28 ST-reserved seats it contested across the State.

The BJP itself contested 25 of the 28 seats spread across the Santhal Pargana, Kolhan, South Chotanagpur, and Palamu regions. It won only in Seraikella, where former Chief Minister Champai Soren, who had jumped over from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, emerged victorious. However, the BJP lost the Khunti and Torpa seats to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), bringing the NDA's tally in ST seats down to one from three in 2019.

The ruling INDIA bloc also secured about 52% of the votes in the region – its highest vote share across all regions in this election – marking an increase of over 12 percentage points compared with 2019. Further, in Santhal Pargana, the BJP also lost general seats such as Rajmahal, Sarath, and Godda.

In the Santhal Pargana region, the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance won 17 of the 18 Assembly seats, with the BJP coming out on top in Jarmundi, held by the Congress since 2014.

Leaders like Mr. Champai Soren and Lobin Hembram had publicly said that one of the principal reasons for their switch to the BJP was the issue of alleged infiltration in Santhal Pargana threatening the tribal way of life.

While Mr. Hembram lost his Borio seat by a margin of 19,000 votes to the JMM's Dhananjay Soren, the impact of Mr. Champai Soren's switch to the BJP was limited in the Kolhan region.

In Santhal Pargana's Jamtara region, the BJP had attempted to boil its "infiltration" rhetoric down to the fight between the Congress's Irfan Ansari and JMM founder Shibu Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Murmu Soren, who contested on BJP ticket. Here too, Ms. Soren lost by a margin of over 43,000 votes.

In the Kolhan region, the BJP won back the Jamshedpur East Assembly seat after losing it to an Independent in 2019. In Ghatsila, Mr. Champai's son, Babu Lal Soren, lost to the JMM by over 22,000 votes and in Potka seat, where former Union Minister and ex-Chief Minister Arjun Munda's wife Meera Munda was contesting, the JMM's Sanjib Sardar won by close to 28,000 votes.

In the South Chotanagpur region, where the network of the Sangh Parivar-affiliated Vanvasi Kalyan Ashrams ran a shadow campaign for the BJP in Adivasi villages on the promise of an NRC to counter "infiltration" despite it being missing from the party's manifesto, the BJP failed to win any of 11 ST-reserved seats.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	5	3	2	9	6	8	4
4	3	8	1	6	5	7	9	2
2	9	6	7	4	8	1	3	5
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6	8	4	9	3	2	5	1	7
5	7	3	4	1	6	9	2	8
8	5	2	6	9	3	4	7	1
9	4	7	8	5	1	2	6	3
3	6	1	2	7	4	8	5	9

INBRIEF

Barthwal visits Norway to discuss trade pact with EFTA

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal visited Norway on Friday to discuss the possibility of an early implementation of a free trade agreement between India and EFTA, an official statement said. The agreement, officially dubbed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), was inked in March. The implementation date has not yet been finalised. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. PTI

Next round of India-Asean FTA review talks in Feb.

The next round of talks to review the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods will be held in February after completing one round in New Delhi this week. The Asean group of nations s one of India's major trade partners with about 11% share in its global trade. The bilateral trade in 2023-24 was $121 billion and had grown 5.2% to $73 billion during April-October this year. India is asking for a review of the agreement to eliminate barriers and misuse of the trade pact. PTI

SHF eyes ₹500 crore of loan disbursements in Coimbatore

Sundaram Home Finance (SHF) is aiming at a threefold increase in its overall disbursements to over ₹500 crore in the Coimbatore region over the next 12-18 months. This will include about ₹50 crore from the new emerging business (EB) segment. SHF said it has started foraying deeper into the tier-III towns in Western Tamil Nadu and Coimbatore region by eyeing Tiruppur, Dharapuram, Erode and Pollachi. On Monday, it opened a new branch office in Pollachi.

Govt. unfazed by high import bills and trade deficit spikes

Trade mandarins and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal have stressed some imported goods serve as vital inputs for India's rising exports; Minister hints at a study to demonstrate the correlation

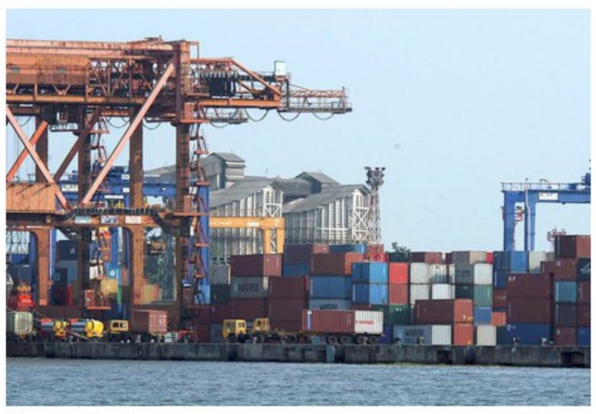
Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Centre is nonplussed about the recent spate of record high import bills and is not actively mulling any import compression measures, top trade officials asserted, attributing the rising import tallies to India's relatively faster growth visà-vis the rest of the world, and the use of some incoming goods like precious metals and electronics as inputs for exported items.

Over the past three months, India's goods imports have scaled fresh highs twice, hitting an alltime high of $64.34 billion in August, which was subsequently eclipsed by October's tally of $66.34 billion. While August clocked the second highest monthly merchandise trade deficit, the gap was $27.14 billion in October, the third highest on record, aided by a 28-month high 17.5% uptick in exports.

In August, record gold imports had fuelled the import bill, while October's imports were driven by both gold and oil imports, that had risen 62% and 46.4%, respectively from September's levels.

Between April and October, goods imports are up 5.8% at $416.9 billion, while outbound shipments grew by a more modest 3.2% to $252.2 billion, lifting the deficit to $164.6 billion from just under $150 billion last year.



Fresh highs: India's goods imports hit an all-time high of $64.34 billion in August this year. K.K. MUSTAFAH

"We need not be unnecessarily worried about rising imports or take a mercantilist view about trade that a few countries had once taken against free trade, thinking it is always better to export more and import less and keep a positive trade balance," a top Commerce Ministry official said in response to a query from *The Hindu* on the import bill spikes.

"If everybody starts saying 'We will export more and import less', then, trade will not happen. Some countries have to export more and some have to import more. What is material is the nature of those imports," he noted.

For exporting finished goods in sectors like electronics, India may require certain imports to build up the value chain. "Once we develop the manufacturing capabilities and ecosystem, the story changes as it did in automobiles," the official pointed out. India, he emphasised, should be more focused on raising exports which would also enable higher imports.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal echoed this sentiment on November 19. "A lot of our imports are directly correlated to our exports so when you look at the number of months of imports our foreign exchange reserves can support, you need to calibrate that," the minister said at the CITIC CLSA India Forum.

Indicating the Ministry may conduct a study on this aspect of imported inputs aiding exported , the minister noted: "Let's say, if we are importing $30-40 billion of gems and jewels, directly adding value here and then exporting them, or the $15-17 billion of mobile phones that we export, for which $10-12 billion of componets are being imported..."

Beyond such imports, Mr. Goyal said there are only three-four other things India is really importing – pulses and edible oils like palm oil, crude petroleum, coking coal needed for steel production and a 'little bit of thermal coal for port-based power plants'.

"I think there's enough coal in India so we can do away with that. Then add some gold of about $50 billion, it's not a problem. So if one looks at the India import basket - you will find there's not much... Our export of marine and food products was $55 billion last year, much more than our import of pulses and edible oils," he pointed out. Moreover, with services exports yielding a rising trade surplus, the net current account deficit is still about 1% of GDP, which the minister asserted was not "serious enough to be a concern" for the economy.

The trade official quoted earlier said India's economy is growing faster than the world so consumption and import demand is higher. "If you look at the U.S., it maintains a very huge deficit with other countries, but their economy is still doing extremely well," he pointed out.

"When you look at imports, you should be able to only finance those imports. So currently, if you look at our imports, remittances, FDI inflows, and our foreign exchange reserves, we are in a very comfortable position to deal with imports," the official underlined.

Aurobindo partners global pharma major for respiratory products

N. Ravikumar
HYDERABAD

The two entities will share developmental costs equally, with an overall cap of $90 mn for Aurobindo

Aurobindo Pharma, through a U.S. subsidiary, has entered into a collaboration and licence agreement with a global pharma major for development of specific products across respiratory therapeutic area and their commercialisation.

The financials include an upfront payment of $25 million on the effective date of the agreement. The two entities have agreed to equally share the developmental costs with an overall cap of $90 million for Aurobindo, the Hyderabad-based generic drugmaker said in a filing on Saturday.

Citing confidentiality clause in the agreement, it, however, did not disclose the pharma major's name. The product development is estimated to span about three to five years.

The two entities will co-exclusively commercialise the products to be manufactured at the partner's facility. The partner will have global manufacturing rights for the codeveloped and commercialised products.

Aurobindo has an option to technology transfer at a future date. On the rationale and benefits of the agreement, Aurobindo listed sharing of risks associated with product development as well as the cost of development, a reduction in the gestational period for developing the product from scratch, and a strengthening and diversification of its existing product portfolio.

Panasonic to invest ₹400 cr. to expand Sri City unit capacity

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Panasonic Electric Works India (PEWIN) is gearing up to increase the installed capacity of switches and sockets in its Sri City unit fourfold at an investment of about ₹400 crore in two phases till 2030, a company executive said.

"Currently, we have an installed capacity to produce 10 million switches and sockets per month. In the second phase, we will ramp it up to 20 million units. The third phase calls for setting up a new plant to produce another 20 million units," Panasonic Life Solutions India Electric Works Division plant head R. Marimaran said during an interaction.

Indian coffee planters expect prices to remain high for four-five years

Mini Tejaswi
MADIKERI

Larger interest: The planters falso felt that prices need to be stable for 4-5 years to enable them to repay their loans. FILE PHOTO

Coffee prices will remain high in the near term and at least up to the next two years as production of the commodity is on a global decline, Ajoy Thipaiah, vice president, United Planters' Association of Southern India, said at a recent press briefing held by the Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA).

According to him, global coffee stock has reduced, with major producing countries like Brazil, Mexico, Columbia and Vietnam seeing a decline in coffee production on account of adverse climatic conditions. "Indian Arabia coffee production has also dropped by 50% due to floods and droughts and other vagaries of nature. These factors might help the prices to continue to stay high near term and at least up to next two years," Mr. Thipaiah said.

KPA chairman K.G. Rajeev said while climate change posed a threat to production and market dynamics, including the small surplus and negative production balance, "we are exerting upward pressure strategies on prices."

"It will be crucial to monitor these factors and implement strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure sustainable growth in the coffee sector," Mr. Rajeev said. He further said that the market was experiencing positive price pressure due to a small surplus of 1 million bags and a negative cumulative 10-year production average of 1.9 million bags.

Karnataka, the largest producer of coffee, accounts for about 70% of the country's output of about 3.5 lakh tonnes.

The planters fraternity in general also felt that prices need to be stable for about 4-5 years so that they would be able to repay their outstanding loans which have been piling up in the last 15 years.

"We need stable prices over 4-5 years to enable us to repay all the debts accrued over the past 15 years," said Sahadev Balakrishna, Chairman of the UPASI Coffee Committee. Growers have faced hard times over the past 15 years on low prices and high costs fuelled by rising wages amid dwindling yields impacted by the changing climatic pattern.

Domestic coffee prices, mainly those of the widely grown variety of Robustas, have witnessed an increase of 36 to 48% during the January-June period this year over the same period last year, as per Coffee Board data. However, Arabica prices have moved up in the range of 2.3% to 7.7% during this period.

Robusta Parchment AB prices have moved up to an average of ₹368.71 per kg during January-June 2024, from ₹271.67 per kg in the same period last year. Robusta Cherry AB prices have increased by about 48% to ₹372.89 per kg during January-June 2024 as compared with an average of ₹252.72 per kg in the same period last year.

Mr. Rajeev further said that the plantation industry, in addition to weather changes, faced a plethora of challenges including rising costs, labour shortage, lack of modernisation, disease and pest outbreaks and rise in man-animal conflicts. The planters' body has also sought government support to sustain the plantation industry in terms of tax exemptions for expenses related to development, sustainable practices and infrastructure development.

"We have made a representation to the Finance Ministry to exclude plantations from CIBIL as plantations are agriculture in nature. We have also asked the government to treat planters as agriculturists and stop invoking SARFAESI Act on them," he added.

(The correspondent was in Madikeri at the invitation of Karnataka Planters' Association)

Office of the Superintending Engineer Water Resources Circle Bhilwara
NO./Acctt./2024-25/5459 Dt. 19/11/24
NOTICE INVITING BID No. 04/2024-25
NIB No. WRD2425A0317
Bids for the following works are invited from interested bidders up to 6:00 PM Date. 16-12-2024.

S. No.	Name Of Work	Appox. Cost of Work (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
1	Renovation of Dam Canal of Banakiya MIP Tehsil and District Chittorgarh	505.75

Other particulars of the bid may visited on the procurement portal sppp.raj.nic.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and Water Resources Departmental website.
UBN No. WRD2425WLOB1234
(Soji Singh Pratihar)
Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle Bhilwara
DIPR/C/11598/2024

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, भीम
जयपुर क्षेत्र - द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई-मेल : ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com, फोन नं. :- 0141-2702700
क्रमांक :- अमुअ/ जय/ क्षेत्र (द्वितीय)/ 2024-25/ 8305 - 8330 दिनांक : 07/11/24
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for work of Providing Water Supply From Bisalpur- Jaipur System for RWSS of 130 Nos Villages of Sanganer Block District Jaipur under Jal Jeevan Mission with Operation and Maintenance for Ten (10) Years after Defect Liability Period of One (1) Year. (NIT No 05/2024-25) is invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM, 11.12.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on, the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PHED departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 188.67 Crore.
NIB Code: PHE2425A2831, UBN: PHE2425WLOB06075
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED Jaipur Region-II Jaipur
DIPR/C/11542/24

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग- भरतपुर
क्रमांकः ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी/ निविदा/ 2024-25/ डी-2300 दिनांक : 18/11/24
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्याः 06/2024-25
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला भरतपुर में वर्षा से क्षतिग्रस्त विभिन्न सड़कों का स्थायी पुनरूद्धार कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in " पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।
NIB- PWD2425A2683, UBN - PWD2425WSOB09796
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर
DIPR/C/11501/24

Office of the Superintending Engineer
PHED, Project Circle,
Jaipur, Sector 26, Near Ayush Bhawan, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur
Email: seproj.jai.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No. Dated:
Notice Inviting Bid
Online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible enlisted "AA" class contractors of PHED, Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Government of Rajasthan or enlisted with CPWD/ Postal/ Telecom/ Railways/ MES/ other State Government/ Central Government undertakings/ organization in class equivalent to "AA" class of Rajasthan and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply after depositing prescribed Bid Security. Details of this Bid notification and pre- qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted online electronic format on web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN: PHE2425WL0B06219

NIB No	Particulars of work	NIB Cost
01/24-25	Construction of Intake, RWR, WTP at Masi Dam, Pump house and connecting it with CWR for Conjunctive use including O & M work for ten years after one year defect liability period for Bisalpur-Niwai-Tonk Water Supply Project under JJM (Package-III).	Rs 21.01 Crores

Superintending Engineer
PHED, Project Circle Jaipur
DIPR/C/11516/2024

ODISHA STATE CASHEW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
At/Po – Ghatikia, Near Kalinga Studio, Bhubaneswar – 751029
Notice for Auction of Cashew Plantation No.1
Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited hereby invites interested person/ organization to bid for the cashew plantations under its jurisdiction in two divisions – Koraput and Sundargarh in the auction to be effectuated on the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/** on **Dt.03/12/2024**. The details of the date and time related to the auction process are as mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1	Publication Date	25/11/2024	11:00 AM
2	Document Submission / EMD Payment Start Date	25/11/2024	11:00 AM
3	Document Submission / EMD Payment End Date	02/12/2024	05:00 PM
4	Auction Start Date	03/12/2024	11:00 AM
5	Auction End Date	03/12/2024	05:00 PM

The plantations will be leased out for 5 years/ 3 years as per the area of the plantation. The detailed terms and condition may be obtained from the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/** or **https://www.oscdc.nic.in**.
Thus it is notified for the information of general public that, you are requested to take part in the auction process carefully as per the instructions mentioned in the above mentioned website, date and time. For more information you may contact to the Head Office or the respective Division Offices.
Sd/- Managing Director
CAD-1683 OIPR-01049/11/0015/2425

एवी एन एल शिक्षण संस्थान आवडी
आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय
AVNL INSTITUTE OF LEARNING AVADI
UNIT OF ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

ENGAGEMENT OF PERSONNEL UNDER FIXED TERM CONTRACT
(Advt. No. IOLAV/FTC/RECT/2024/02)
Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). It has five (05) constituent production units. AVNL produces battle tanks i.e. T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun and Infantry Combat Vehicles, support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.
AVNL invites offline Applications from Indian Citizens fulfilling the eligibility requirements, for filling up of the following Fixed Term Based posts on CONTRACT BASIS to work in AVNL Institute of Learning, Avadi, Chennai-54, a training institute for AVNL employees and others.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies	Minimum Basic Pay (Per Month)	Nature of Appointment
1	Young Professionals (HR Generalist)	04 (UR)	Rs. 40,000/-	Engagement on Full Time on Fixed Term Contract Basis.

The last date of receipt of application will be **21 Days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in employment newspaper. For further information please visit our **AVNL website www.avnl.co.in** for detailed job specification, scope of work, reporting mechanism, remuneration, allowances, qualification, experience, age limit, tenure and procedure for applying for the said post.
Note:
Any corrigendum / amendment in this advertisement will be published / uploaded on **AVNL Website ONLY**.
HR Division, IOLAV Unit of AVNL
Chennai Email:iolavd@avnl.co.in
Dated: 22-11-2024 Tele: :044-26843367

Tests show that minke whales can hear high-frequency sounds

The Hindu Bureau

For the first time, scientists have directly measured the hearing range of minke whales, discovering that the species can detect high-frequency sounds as high as 90 kilohertz (kHz), according to a new study, demonstrating hearing sensitivity far greater than previously believed.

The findings suggest that baleen whales – the planet's largest mammals – may be even more impacted by anthropogenic ocean noise than currently recognised but have been excluded from regulatory consideration due to underestimated hearing ranges. There have been concerns about the impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals like high-profile whale stranding events linked to naval sonar noise activity. As a result, substantial progress has been made in developing criteria and thresholds for evaluating impacts on marine mammals exposed to anthropogenic noise.

Although researchers have suggested using behavioural changes, hearing damage, and other physical effects to measure the impact of noise on marine mammals, setting clear thresholds is challenging because different species of marine mammals respond to noise in widely varying and poorly understood ways. Audiograms – graphs illustrating an animal's hearing sensitivity – are essential for identifying the sound frequencies that affect marine mammals.

However, while audiograms are available for at least one representative species in most major marine mammal groups, none exist for baleen whales. To better understand how ocean noise impacts baleen whales, researchers developed a novel catch-and-release method to temporally hold adolescent minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) for auditory evoked potential (AEP) tests, which estimate hearing sensitivity by measuring electrical signals produced in the brain in response to sound. Leveraging a natural channel between two islands in Norway, and a system of net barriers, the researchers contained two adolescent minke whales making their northward migration.

While it has been assumed that baleen whales are exclusively low-frequency hearing specialists, the authors discovered that minke whales can detect frequencies as high as 45 to 90 kHz – a range much higher than previously believed based upon their ear anatomy and the frequencies at which they vocalise.

Study shows fatal spread of H5N1 from ferrets to suckling kits

The study demonstrates that H5N1 2.3.4.4b clade infection in lactating ferrets leads to mastitis-related disease and transmission to suckling pups, resulting in 100% mortality among the pups

R. Prasad

During 2020, the highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N1) virus of clade 2.3.4.4b emerged and rapidly spread across many parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 2021-2022, the 2.3.4.4b clade of H5N1 first spread to North America and then to South America where it caused large-scale mortality of seabirds. Except for causing episodic mortality of pinnipeds and cetaceans in Europe and North America, the virus had not spread to marine mammals. But that changed when the virus spread along the coast of Peru and Chile in 2022-2023 infecting and killing 30,000 sea lions; the virus also spread to dolphins, otters, and other marine mammals.

In Argentina, the virus spread to and killed over 17,000 elephant seals, including almost 97% of the pups. Till the outbreak in different mammals, H5N1 viruses were considered to rarely infect mammals and not likely to spread among mammals.

By the end of March this year, the virus was first reported in cattle in Texas. The first case of a farm worker in the U.S. was reported on April 1.

The patient developed symptoms on March 27, days after the first case in cattle was reported. The patient had a history of exposure to dairy cattle presumed to be infected with the H5N1 virus. As of November 22, 2024, 58 H5N1 cases in people have been reported in the U.S., and the virus has spread to 616 dairy herds across 15 States, with 402 herds in California alone.

From lactating ferrets to suckling pups

H5N1 virus of 2.3.4.4b clade shows a marked preference for the mammary gland

- H5N1 viruses were once considered to rarely infect mammals and not likely to spread among mammals. But that has changed since 2022
- H5N1 virus of 2.3.4.4b clade has infected a variety of mammals — sea lions, dolphins, otters, elephant seals and cows
- As on November 18, 55 H5N1 cases have been reported in humans in the U.S., and the 2.3.4.4b clade of H5N1 has spread to 553 dairy herds across 15 States in the U.S.
- The presence of virus in the mammary gland suggests active viral replication within the gland

Viral spread: Viral RNA titers significantly increased in milk over time and remained high in the mammary gland tissue

- The virus had spread from lactating ferrets to suckling pups; the pups had significantly increased viral RNA in the oral and nasal cavity
- Viral RNA levels in the lungs were low in the lactating ferrets but high in the suckling pups
- H5N1 virus caused 100% fatality in lactating ferrets and suckling pups

Causing disease

The 2.3.4.4b clade of the H5N1 virus is typically found in the mammary glands of cows, with milk from infected cows containing high levels of viral RNA and infectious virus. The virus infecting the mammary gland raises concerns about milk as a possible interface for virus transmission to offspring through breastfeeding, and even to humans. Since studying H5N1 infection in the mammary gland through controlled studies in cattle is challenging and labor-intensive, researchers turned to ferrets to study the H5N1 virus of 2.3.4.4b clade infection and transmission in the mammary gland via milk. The researchers found that lactating ferrets with mammary gland infection with the H5N1 influenza virus (2.3.4.4b clade) are capable of spreading and causing disease in suckling ferret pups. It also caused 100% fatality in lactating ferrets and ferret pups. The results have been posted on a preprint server; preprints are yet to be peer-reviewed.

In another study published in *Nature* on October 28, ferrets infected with the H5N1 virus (clade 2.3.4.4b) had severe disease and 100% mortality. The study found the virus spreading efficiently between ferrets in direct contact but failed to spread efficiently between ferrets via respiratory droplets or fomites.

To study H5N1 virus 2.3.4.4b clade infection from lactating ferrets to infants, the researchers of the preprint study inoculated the virus into the mammary glands of lactating ferrets at 2.5 weeks postpartum. The preprint study notes that viral RNA titers significantly increased in milk over time and remained high in the mammary gland tissue. While suckling kits had significantly increased viral RNA in the oral and nasal cavities, the virus in the nasal cavities of lactating ferrets was delayed, with only minimal virus present in the oral cavity. Viral RNA levels in the lungs were low in the lactating ferrets but high in the suckling kits. This demonstrates that H5N1 2.3.4.4b clade infection in lactating ferrets leads to mastitis-related disease and virus spread to suckling pups, resulting in 100% mortality among the pups, the study notes.

They found intramammary H5N1 virus (clade 2.3.4.4b) infection resulted in 100% mortality of kits four days post-inoculation and six days post-inoculation in the case of the lactating ferrets. Milk collected from lactating ferrets showed viral RNA levels increased compared to baseline. "The presence of virus in the mammary gland suggests active viral replication within the gland," they note.

Significant increase

While there was no difference in viral RNA in the case of the oral cavity of the lactating ferrets, there was a significant increase in viral RNA in the oral cavity of the suckling kits. RNA levels in the pups' oral cavity peaked at four days post-inoculation, which is consistent with viral transmission in milk, they write. Though the lactating ferrets did not show any viral RNA in the nasal area even on day two post-inoculation, prolonged contact with the suckling kits led to an increase in viral RNA in the lactating ferret.

"Viral kinetics in the oral and nasal cavities suggest that kits developed respiratory infections directly from H5N1-positive milk, leading to respiratory transmission to the mother. These findings indicate that intramammary H5N1 infection causes more severe disease in lactating ferrets and their kits than H1N1," the researchers write.

'Zero cervical cancer cases among women vaccinated early'

The Hindu Bureau

A population-based observational study from 1988 to 2016 in Scotland has found zero cervical cancer cases in women who were fully vaccinated with an HPV vaccine when they were 12-13 years of age. The HPV immunisation programme began in Scotland in 2008. Women who were vaccinated with three doses of a bivalent HPV vaccine at 14 to 22 years of age as part of a catch-up programme (2008-2011) had a significant reduction – (3.2 cases per 100 000 population) – in cervical cancer incidence compared with unvaccinated women.

The study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* found that routine immunisation with a bivalent HPV vaccine when girls are 12 to 13 years of age is highly effective in preventing invasive cervical cancer. In the case of teenagers aged 14 to 18 years, HPV vaccination with three doses led to a significant reduction in the incidence of invasive cancer. "This study showed a greater risk reduction than predicted for girls vaccinated at age 12 or 13 years because no cases of invasive cancer have yet been diagnosed in this age group," the authors write.

'Uptake of screening'

While HPV 16 and HPV 18 are responsible for about 70% of cervical cancers worldwide, there are several other HPV types that can cause cervical cancer. Despite the bivalent vaccine protecting against HPV 16 and 18, a small number of cancers related to other HPV types can arise especially when vaccine-directed HPV types are eliminated. This is the reason why despite being vaccinated, all women still need to undergo screening for cervical cancer, albeit at a reduced frequency, given their lower risk of malignancy. That HPV vaccination is the best solution given the poor uptake of screening for cervical cancer in India is therefore plainly wrong. Even when the HPV vaccine is included into India's universal immunisation programme, screening should be ramped up and vaccinated women should be encouraged to get screened at regular intervals.

HPV 16 and HPV 18 are responsible for about 70% of cervical cancers GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"The bivalent vaccine generates significant cross-protection against HPV-31, HPV-33, and HPV-45 in addition to the target types HPV-16 and HPV-18. Its spectrum of activity is broader than the quadrivalent vaccine but not as wide as the nonavalent (nine valent) vaccine. For Scotland, the vaccine confers protection against approximately 85% of HPV-positive invasive cervical cancers," the authors write. "Early indications of the potential of the remaining HPV types to cause significant disease will come first from monitoring disease rates in screened populations and studies investigating the HPV spectrum in high-grade CIN [precancerous condition]. Women therefore need to be encouraged to attend for cervical screening."

As per the study, cervical cancer incidence in Scotland showed a positive association with deprivation. While the most deprived individuals had an incidence of 10.1 per 1,00,000 people, the incidence among the least deprived individuals was 3.9 per 1,00,000 people.

One of the reasons for the reduced effectiveness of HPV vaccine in preventing cervical cancer is that HPV immunisation should be before girls become sexually active. HPV vaccine trials have shown poor or no protection against precancers among older women.

The HPV vaccine did not show any effectiveness in Denmark when women aged 20 years or older were vaccinated. Vaccine effectiveness was reduced when teenagers were vaccinated at the age of 16 to 18 years. Even in the case of Scotland, unlike zero cancer cases in women who were vaccinated when they were aged 12-13 years, cervical cancer incidence showed a significant reduction when women were immunised between 14 and 18 years of age but cancer incidence was not zero.

SNAPSHOTS

Tree islands help restore nature in oil palm plantations

An investigation on how ecological restoration promotes biodiversity recovery in oil palm plantations in Sumatra found that establishing islands of trees within large oil palm monocultures can promote the recovery of native tree diversity. Researchers established 52 tree islands of varying sizes and diversity of planted trees in a conventional industrial oil palm plantation in Sumatra. Native species successfully colonised the tree islands, including trees that are endemic to Sundaland.

Body size of paper wasps is larger nearer the equator

A study of the correlation between environmental variables such as latitude and body size in paper wasps concludes that the nearer the habitat of a species to the equator, the larger its body size. The findings refute for these insects a 19th-century theory that predicts larger body size at higher latitudes or in colder regions of the planet. It found that species living in warmer, less seasonal habitats closer to the equator tend to be larger than species living at higher latitudes, where temperatures are lower.

Groundwater pumping drives rapid subsidence in California

A new study shows land in California's San Joaquin Valley has been sinking at record-breaking rates over the last two decades as groundwater extraction has outpaced natural recharge. The average rate of sinking for the entire valley reached nearly an inch per year between 2006 and 2022. Additional analysis suggests that San Joaquin Valley aquifers require approximately 220 billion gallons of water coming in to prevent future subsidence.

Question Corner

Pheromone trails

How do ants selectively travel to the food source that is the shortest distance from their nests?

Researchers have discovered that in a foraging ant's search for food, it will leave pheromone trails connecting its colony to multiple food sources when they are available, successfully creating the first model that explains the phenomenon of trail formation to multiple food sources. Foraging for resources is an essential process for the daily life of an ant colony, and ants will self-organise using chemical pheromones. Once an ant detects a food source, it secretes a chemical trail to lead other ants to the source. Using computational simulations of ants searching for food, stochastic modeling, and a system of partial differential equations, the researchers also observed that over time, ants will selectively travel to the food source that is the shortest distance from its nest."If one food source was just slightly closer to the ants' nest, the ants would eventually form one singular trail to the closest source," Florida State University researcher Bhargav Karamched said.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What can CAQM do to improve Delhi air?

Why did the Supreme Court pull up the the Commission for Air Quality Management?

Nikhil M. Babu

The story so far:

Air pollution in Delhi has been in the 'severe' and 'severe plus' category for the most part of the last 10 days. This week, the Supreme Court pulled up the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the government's monitoring agency, on its inadequate pollution control response.

What is the CAQM?

The CAQM in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas came into existence through an ordinance in 2020, which was later replaced by an Act of Parliament in 2021. The CAQM was set up for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding air quality and connected issues. It initially had 15 members, comprising officials, past and present, of the environment ministry and other departments of the Union government, as well as officials of various State governments, and representatives from NGOs and other agencies. The CAQM is now headed by Rajesh Verma and there are 27 members.

The CAQM replaced the EPCA (Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority), which was formed in 1998 by the Supreme Court. However, the EPCA was not backed by a statute and experts had raised the issue that it lacked the teeth to act against authorities which did not follow its orders. Despite that drawback, it was under the EPCA that many of the measures being followed by the CAQM started, including the Graded Response Action Plan or GRAP, a list of temporary emergency measures to control air pollution.

> Though the CAQM makes plans and coordinates with different agencies, it is the agencies that have to implement them on the ground

What are the powers of CAQM?

Under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, the CAQM was given the power to take all measures, issue directions and entertain complaints, as it deems necessary, for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of air in the NCR and adjoining areas. Under Section 14 of the Act, the CAQM can initiate stringent actions against officers for not following its orders.

Why did the SC pull up the CAQM?

Over the years, the Supreme Court which has been hearing an ongoing case on air pollution, has pulled up different governments and agencies for their laxity. On September 27, Justice A.S. Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih orally observed about CAQM: "Like pollution, your directions are in the air." The court was referring to various stakeholders not following the CAQM's orders despite specific provisions under the 2021 Act. "There has been total non-compliance of the Act. Please show us a single direction issued to any stakeholder under the Act... We are of the view that though the Commission has taken steps, it needs to be more active. The Commission must ensure that its efforts and directions issued actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," the Bench observed. On November 18, the Supreme Court slammed the CAQM for delayed action while directing stringent curbs under Stage IV of the GRAP and noted that rather than taking pre-emptive action to contain air pollution, it waited in vain for the air to improve. Stage IV is the highest level of restrictions under GRAP, and according to the CAQM's rules, it is supposed to be implemented when the air quality category is likely to fall to 'severe plus', and is likely to remain in that level for three or more days. The court pulled up the CAQM for delaying implementation of curbs though the AQI had slipped to the 'severe plus' category.

Is the CAQM to blame for Delhi's pollution?

Though the CAQM makes plans and coordinates with different agencies, it is the agencies that have to implement them on the ground.

An official of the CAQM said the commission has improved coordination and planning. "For example, though the paddy stubble burning, which is a source of severe pollution, happens in October-November, we start meeting State officials from February and continue talks till the season is over," the member said. The CAQM had also coordinated with Punjab and Haryana to prepare action plans for controlling stubble burning in 2022 and it is updated every year.

About challenges that the commission faces, the official said, "Over the years, though we were looking at different sources of pollution and trying to control them, our main focus was on controlling stubble burning. But from now onwards, we will try to focus on multiple areas. We will be putting more energy and time on controlling dust and vehicular pollution too."

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, Centre for Science and Environment, said that the decision to impose GRAP should be taken proactively by the CAQM. Pollution forecasting methods have to be more accurate, she added.

How should India tackle diabetes load?

What is the controversy over the numbers? What is the difference in testing methodology? What are the issues raised in the *Lancet* study on controlling diabetes? Why are doctors concerned about the number of diabetics in India? What steps need to be taken?

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

On International Diabetes Day (November 14), a paper published in the *The Lancet*, based on a global study, recorded over 800 million adults living with diabetes, with more than half not receiving treatment. According to the study, the total number of adults living with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes in the world has surpassed 800 million – over four times the total number in 1990. Of this, over a quarter (212 million) live in India, with another 148 million in China. The estimate came as a bit of a shock, because the last scientific countrywide estimate by the Indian Council of Medical Research-INDIAB study last year had pegged the number at slightly over 100 million.

Why is there a discrepancy in numbers?

The nub of it is in the means used to measure blood sugar, experts have pointed out. *The Lancet* study, conducted by the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC), along with the World Health Organization (WHO), used data from over 140 million people (18+ years) culled from more than 1,000 studies in different countries. They estimated trends from 1990 to 2022 in diabetes prevalence and treatment for 200 countries and territories. As such they had to use what was available as data in these nations – picking fasting glucose or HbA1C or a three-month glycated haemoglobin average. The ICMR study, however, used a fasting measure and a two-hour post prandial value to come up with the number of people who have elevated blood sugar levels.

It is the use of differing measures to estimate diabetes that has led to the variation. V. Mohan, chairman, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai, who was part of the ICMR-INDIAB study says, while a number of countries have moved to measuring HbA1C, India still sticks to the measure of the fasting and two-hour post prandial readings with an Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT) as the gold standard. "If they had taken the OGTT values alone, then the number would be half of what was recorded," he says. "Using HbA1c, they preferred a single cut-off point to determine diabetes – 6.5 %. Even in those with normal glucose, a small percentage will spill over into the 6.5% HbA1c value, depending on whether individuals are 'fast' or 'normal glycators'. Glycation is influenced by many things, including anaemia, and advancing age. Someone who is nondiabetic too, but is older, may have a high A1C value. In some earlier studies, when we used HbA1C, we found a doubling of the figures," he adds, reasoning out why the OGTT figures are considered the gold standard.

> 'Efforts should be made on a warfooting to prevent diabetes and treat persons with the condition'

However, he adds that a global study the size of what was attempted as part of this exercise would have to use the information already available in countries, and not all nations have OGTT fasting and post prandial values.

Anoop Mishra, chairperson, Fortis CDOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, adds that sources of data are multiple here, thereby giving rise to apparent differences in total numbers. Also, he adds that Type 1 diabetics are a small proportion of the total diabetes cases in India, and it is Type 2 diabetes that poses problems for the future.

What are the areas of concern?

Whether 100 million or 200 million, the fact remains that India already has a large number of people requiring treatment for their diabetes, and who, as a consequence are prone to several life-threatening complications involving the heart, eyes, kidneys, and peripheral nervous system. Quibbling over numbers apart, the *Lancet* study must be seen as yet another reminder that in India, diabetes has grown – and is growing – across populations, and efforts should be made on a warfooting to both prevent diabetes and treat persons with the condition.

Another aspect that the study highlighted was the lack of access to treatment for people with diabetes. Senior author of the paper, Majid Ezzati, of the Imperial College, London, says: "Our study highlights widening global inequalities in diabetes, with treatment rates stagnating in many low-and middle-income countries, where numbers of adults with diabetes are drastically increasing. This is especially concerning as people with diabetes tend to be younger in low-income countries, and in the absence of effective treatment, are at risk of life-long complications, including amputation, heart disease, kidney damage or vision loss, or in some cases, premature death."

No country in the world can afford to treat patients when the complications of diabetes set in, explains Dr. Mohan. "Even if we assume we have 100 million people with diabetes and 20% of them move to kidney failure, then that is 20 million people who will need a kidney transplant. How are we going to help all those people?" Dr. Mishra invokes a war metaphor, to stress the urgency of the fight ahead for challenges that might seem, like the labours of Hercules, impossible to achieve and yet only require near superhuman effort. "Unless war-like efforts, using mass media for raising awareness on nutrition, physical activity, are put in, and more legal provisions to cut down carbs and sugar-sweetened beverages, it will be a tall order to keep the numbers from rising," he says. Speaking ahead of World Diabetes Day, International Diabetes Federation Peter Schwarz spoke about prevention as the primary, crucial aspect in this game: "My heart is beating for prevention. And then the next step is prevention, and then prevention again."

Dr. Mishra adds that nations such as India have a duty to focus on the vulnerable, lower middle class, semi-urban and rural people. "We have to majorly educate women since they are prone to obesity post pregnancy and have a heightened risk at menopause. We need to cut off the rising trend of obesity, [Abdominal obesity has been identified as one of the key causes of diabetes among Indians] with all these efforts. A long-term vision for about 10 years is required," he explains.

What can individuals do?

The Lancet paper identifies obesity and poor diets as important drivers of the rise in Type 2 diabetes rates. Diabetes rate was either already high or increased more in some of the regions where obesity was or became prevalent between 1990 and 2022, compared to many high-income countries, especially those in the Pacific and western Europe, where, in general, obesity and diabetes rates did not rise or rose by a relatively small amount. The writing is on the wall: a measure of mindful eating and exercising have a proven effect in preventing diabetes, and controlling blood sugar levels.

The challenge for governments, however, is to make it possible for people to exercise these healthy choices, and for people to demand it of their rulers. As Anjana Ranjit, a collaborator on the ICMR-INDIAB study, says: "We need to see more ambitious policies that restrict unhealthy foods, make healthy foods affordable. Opportunities to exercise must be ensured, besides promoting safe places for walking and exercising, including access to public parks and fitness centres, subsidies provided for healthy foods and free, healthy school meals."

High alert: A person receives a free blood sugar test on November 14. REUTERS

Why is there a row over climate finance?

What are the prickly issues of the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties on global warming? Why is there bickering over a collective step towards ending the reign of fossil fuels and addressing rising carbon emissions? What are the concerns raised by developing nations?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP), arguably the most important of the UN's climate conferences, was scheduled to end on November 22, after 11 days of negotiations, and take a collective step forward in addressing rising carbon emissions. However, deliberations are expected to carry on beyond the deadline with several sticking points outstanding.

What is the significance of COP29?

Going into the talks, developing countries had stated that at least a trillion dollars per year from 2025-35 would be necessary to meet emission targets. This was seen to be the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance which refers to money that will be given to developing countries by developed countries to help the former meet their goals to transition away from the continued use of fossil fuels and curb greenhouse gas emissions. Developing countries have been repeatedly saying that the figure should be "trillions of dollars." To this end, developed countries have mobilised and transferred $115 billion in 2021-22 – a controversial clause that has yet to be resolved in the universal agreement – but per the Paris Agreement, a new target higher than $100 billion must be agreed upon by 2025. The talks in Baku were expected to conclusively agree upon a number but there continues to be a sharp split between developed and developing countries on the quantum and other basic aspects of what this NCQG should look like.

> Developed countries, led by the European Union, say the demands of the developing world are unreasonably high

What do developing countries want?

This block of countries include China, India and the Group of 77 countries. There are also other coalitions such as the Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), Least Developing Countries (LDC), Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) etc. Nearly all developing countries fall into one or multiple groupings and while they have differences, they are largely agreed on the point that it is the developed countries that should pay the bulk of climate finance.

More importantly, they specified that this money had to be provided not only to help countries meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) but also buffer against existing threats of climate change, and make good for climate damage already wrought. The NDCs are targeted, voluntary plans by all countries to reduce carbon emissions by certain quantities until 2030. The NCQG, the developing countries say, should also reflect contributions by developed countries on the basis of their historical contribution to existing carbon concentrations in the atmosphere as well as their per capita GDP. To put this in perspective, it is important to note that even if all countries fulfilled their stated voluntary commitments, it would as of now only translate to a 2% cut, and this year – the latest scientific assessments suggest – carbon emissions will likely increase 0.8% over 2023.

What does the developed world say?

However developed countries, led by the European Union, say these demands are unreasonably high. They aver that "all actors" (read countries) should collectively work to hike up climate finance to $1.3 trillion per year by 2035. While agreeing that they must "take the lead" they have only a set a goal of $250-300 billion by 2035 per year. Moreover this would consist of a "variety of sources," including "public and private, bilateral and multilateral, and alternative sources."

This suggests that another major demand of the developing world, of ensuring most of the money is in the form of grants or low-cost loans, remains unmet.

Have any concrete agreements been made?

A week before the conference began, China had petitioned the Presidency of COP29 to discuss "climate-change related unilateral restrictive trade measures" at the conference. This is an unusual request as trade issues are discussed on forums such as the World Trade Organization. China proposed this as part of a grouping of countries called BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China).

The petition is primarily directed at a European Union proposal called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which imposes a tax on products imported into the EU that don't conform to carbon-emission norms required by the Union. The CBAM is currently operating in a "transitional phase" but will come into full effect from January 1, 2026.

The first day of the conference saw an agreement on carbon markets to be supervised by the UN. Such a market would allow countries to trade carbon credits – certified reductions of carbon emissions – among themselves and whose prices are determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by countries.

The market itself follows from a section in the Paris Agreement, called Article 6. Sub- sections within the Article spell out how countries can bilaterally trade carbon among themselves (Art 6.2) and participate in a global carbon market (6.4). Though most of the necessary nuts and bolts to make operational such a carbon market, supervised by a United Nations body, were in place since 2022, there were several niggles, particularly on ensuring that the carbon credits generated are genuine and its antecedents are transparent.

While there is criticism among environmentalist groups that enough discussions on this didn't take place, this is supposed to be a mechanism to facilitate climate finance. India has been discussing bilateral deals to trade carbon with several countries. An agreement such as the one in Baku could be a catalyst, and activate India's own carbon-trading market.

No agreement yet: Activists participate in a demonstration at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 23. AP

From underground to government

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

The party with Marxist origins, which had led two insurrections against the Sri Lankan state in the past, has refashioned itself under the leadership of Anura Kumara Dissanayake, emerging as a bold critic of corruption and nepotism, and an upholder of the rule of law and democratic norms

Meera Srinivasan

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

When Anura Kumara Dissanayake was elected President of Sri Lanka in September, and his National People's Power [NPP] alliance swept the general elections on November 14, most international news headlines stamped the winners as 'Marxist'.

The tag was hardly positive or even neutral with its connotations of wild-eyed radicalism. The insinuation was that Sri Lanka's ongoing programme with the IMF would derail, and economic stability and recovery would be disrupted.

President Dissanayake, through his November 21 policy statement to the new Parliament, that he will take forward the IMF framework and the aligned debt treatment plans – finalised by his predecessor – tried to allay these fears.

So where does this 'Marxist label' on Sri Lanka's new government come from? The NPP is an eclectic social coalition of some 21 groups, including political parties, youth and women's organisations, trade unions and civil society networks. But one political party forms its political, if not ideological, core – the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front).

In fact, it was JVP leader Mr. Dissanayake who created the NPP in 2019 to widen the party's appeal beyond its traditional cadre base and boost its chances at the polls. His political enterprise, which has now secured a massive victory, has turned a new page in post-colonial Sri Lanka, where politics has been dominated by just two parties and their offshoots, and the five elite families controlling them.

The JVP's office in Battaramulla, a suburb about 10 km east of Colombo, is located close to parliament, although the party has rarely been close to power in the six decades of its existence. Three large black-and-white portraits of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin adorn the white wall of the main meeting room. Party cadre, regardless of position or prominence, make and serve tea to their guests. Above the reception desk at the entrance is a photograph of the party's founder Rohana Wijeweera, an infallible icon for its cadre. His mane, cap, and beard suggest Che Guevara-inspired self-styling.

Wijeweera began what became the JVP in 1965, exactly three decades after Ceylon's left movement birthed the country's oldest party, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP), consequent to serial fractures within the Left. The LSSP split during the Second World War, leading to the formation of a pro-Moscow Communist Party. The cracks within the CP in the 1960s, triggered by the Sino-Soviet dispute, and internal tensions over the parliamentary road to socialism would, in turn, lead to the formation of the JVP, as a revolutionary party with Marxist-Leninist orientation.

'Five classes'

Attracted to Maoism in his student days in the Soviet Union, Wijeweera joined the Communist Party (Peking wing - CP) of Sri Lanka in 1964. He challenged the party's leadership, on their interpretation of class politics and revolution, and was subsequently expelled in 1965. His independent faction morphed into the JVP. Wijeweera and his comrades held political lessons for rural Sinhala youth, called the "Five Classes" that analysed Sri Lanka's social and political order; Indian hegemony; the reformist left and coalition politics; and the parliamentary road to socialism.

The story of the JVP's rise in the late 1960s and fall in the next two decades unravels in the backdrop of two major changes in Sri Lanka – President J.R. Jayewardene's open economic reform in 1977 and the beginning of a full-blown civil war after the 1983, state-sponsored anti-Tamil pogrom that he falsely attributed to Left parties, including the JVP.

The JVP's first insurrection in 1971 came out of frustration that the left-wing Sirimavo Bandaranaike-led government was not doing enough to meet the aspirations of educated but unemployed young people, and in changing the social, economic and political order inherited from the British. The insurgents attacked dozens of police stations, to capture weapons and ammunition.

The second insurrection, from 1987 to 1989, roughly coincided with the party's embrace of Sinhala-nationalism; its fierce opposition to Tamil self-determination; and to the signing of the India-brokered 1987 Accord aimed at ending the war, with boots-on-the-ground in the form of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). To Tamils in the far north of the island, the JVP appeared as Sinhala chauvinist instead of progressive, although the party never directly engaged in anti-Tamil violence.

In both insurrections, where the JVP took up arms against the state, its representatives, supporters, and dissidents from the Left [in the second insurrection], the state's counter-insurgency response was many times more lethal, resulting in the death and disappearance of tens of thousands of Sinhala youth. Wijeweera himself was executed while in state custody in 1989.

Somawansa Amarasinghe, the only politburo member to survive the repression of the 1980s, escaped to India and subsequently to Europe. After a few years of underground existence, the surviving cadre resurrected the party. The JVP tentatively contested in the 1994 general election through another party, winning one seat. Within the next few years, the JVP warmed up to the political mainstream.

Two splits

The new course of the JVP is defined by two consequential splits, linked to the party's proximity to Mahinda Rajapaksa who began dominating the political scene from the early 2000s. They were also fuelled by internal differences on the dilution of leftism for "patriotism" (Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism), versus emphasis on Wijeweera's socialist ideology and the party distancing itself from Mr. Rajapaksa and his pro-war stance.

Since the breakdown of the 2001-03 ceasefire, the JVP unambiguously backed Mr. Rajapaksa's hawkishness in delivering a political solution to the Tamil question, and the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), with scant regard to Tamil lives. The JVP's differences with Rajapaksa were more to do with their unease over 'family-rule' and his socio-economic policies rather than his militaristic response. However, its parliamentary group leader and reactionary politician Wimal Weerawansa disagreed, and broke away with a quarter of its legislators, forming the Jathika Nidahas Peramuna or National Freedom Front in 2008, that until recently firmly planted itself in the Rajapaksa camp. Four years later a Marxist faction within the residual JVP also split from it.

In 2014, Mr. Dissanayake was named leader of a party that had to stabilise itself, after shedding both its racist right-wing and its dissenting left-wing. The splits allowed the JVP to refashion itself, blurring its past profiles, and making a reputation for itself inside and outside parliament, as a bold critic of corruption and nepotism, and as an upholder of the rule of law and liberal democratic norms. The party, till date, is wary of clearly defining its position on the unresolved ethnic question. It also evades the language of class politics. In an interview to *The Hindu* in December 2023, Mr. Dissanayake said: "Labels have always given wrong perceptions. Left politics is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. Some people demonise this. That is why we say we are focussed more on working for the majority of our people, rather than on labels."

THE GIST

- The Lanka Sama Samaja Party, Sri Lanka's oldest party, split during the Second World War, leading to the formation of a pro-Moscow Communist Party
- The cracks within the Communist Party in the 1960s, triggered by the Sino-Soviet dispute, and internal tensions over the parliamentary road to socialism would, in turn, lead to the formation of the JVP
- The party led two insurrections against the state — in 1971 and in 1987-89 — which triggered massive state reprisal. After a few years of underground existence, the surviving cadre resurrected the party

The outsider

Tulsi Gabbard

The former Congresswoman, known for backing whistleblowers and sparking controversies over her views on leaders like Putin and Assad, will be Trump's Director of National Intelligence

Joan Sony Cherian

"He's [Donald Trump] essentially pimping out our men and women in uniform to a foreign power who's the highest bidder... He is unfit to be our commander-in-chief." These were the words of Tulsi Gabbard, President-elect Trump's pick for Director of National Intelligence, back in 2019. Clearly Ms. Gabbard's loyalties have changed since then.

Ms. Gabbard started public life by getting elected to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 2002 at the age of 21. She had to step down from the role in 2003, as her National Guard regiment was called for duty in Iraq. She would later serve in Kuwait and work her way up the ranks to the post of Lieutenant Colonel in 2021.

Conflicting policies

She started her tenure in the U.S. Congress as a Democrat, representing Hawaii's second congressional district, in 2013. She was also the first Hindu in the U.S. Congress. Her political portfolio has been marked by diverse but often conflicting policies. Ms. Gabbard, perhaps owing to her time in the Army, has been a strong advocate against U.S. military interventionism. The *New Yorker* once quoted her as saying "If our troops are sent to fight a war, it must be the last option."

One such 'intervention' Ms. Gabbard once decried was Mr. Trump's push for escalating the war in Syria. In 2018, she accused Mr. Trump and then Vice-President Mike Pence of protecting "al-Qaeda and other jihadist forces in Syria," all the while "threatening Russia, Syria, and Iran, with military force if they dare attack these terrorists."

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Ms. Gabbard spoke about the "legitimate" security concerns Russia had if Ukraine were to join NATO. "This war and suffering could have easily been avoided if Biden Admin/NATO had simply acknowledged Russia's legitimate security concerns," she posted on Twitter (now X) at the time.

With respect to Syria, Ms. Gabbard has been accused of cosying up to 'dictators' such as Bashar al-Assad. As a member of Congress, Ms. Gabbard once moved outside of official channels to meet the Syrian leader in 2017. The meeting kicked up a storm among her then-fellow Democrats who said she was giving legitimacy to a leader accused of various war crimes.

However, the former Congresswoman has taken a tough line on Islamist extremism. She has condemned al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and more recently Hamas.

Breaking loose

Ms. Gabbard's allegiances have undergone a 180-degree shift. In 2016, Ms. Gabbard endorsed Bernie Sanders for President over Hillary Clinton. In 2020, she unsuccessfully ran for Democratic nomination and later endorsed Joe Biden. And in 2022, she left the Democratic Party, accusing them of being an "elitist cabal of warmongers" driven by "cowardly wokeness". She then registered as an independent and became a frequent contributor to *Fox News* wherein she espoused conservative ideas about gender and freedom of speech. And earlier this year, she joined the Republican party and endorsed Donald Trump for President.

While her nomination as Director of National Intelligence needs Senate confirmation, Ms. Gabbard's selection has already created controversy citing her past political positions and her lack of experience. According to CNN, Ms. Gabbard was briefly placed on a Transportation Security Administration list that prompts additional security screening before flights after her overseas travel patterns and foreign connections triggered a government algorithm. And now by being director, she will oversee agencies such as the CIA, the FBI and the NSA.

This is of particular interest as Ms. Gabbard has been a fierce defender of Julian Assange and Edward Snowden, both men who have been accused by the U.S. government of leaking national secrets to the public. It remains to be seen how she makes sense of her position as both a defender of whistleblowers and as protector of national intelligence.

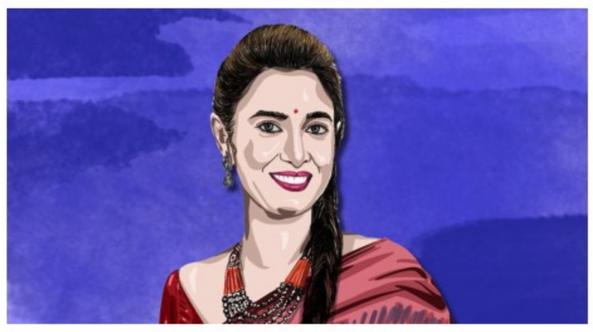
In the line of fire

Kasthuri Shankar

The actor-turned-commentator joins a growing list of anti-DMK voices to have been arrested for making unpalatable comments about the Tamil Nadu's ruling dispensation

Udhav Naig

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Actor Kasthuri Shankar, who came out on a conditional bail from Puzhal prison on November 21, is one such celebrity-talking head currently in the news over controversial remarks. She was picked up by the police in Hyderabad for making a loaded, controversial comment about the 'Telugu' origins of the Tamil Nadu ruling party DMK's first family.

With this arrest, Ms. Kasthuri joins a growing list of anti-DMK voices to have been arrested for making unpalatable comments about the ruling dispensation.

She made these remarks at a protest organised by the Indu Makkal Katchi, a right-wing Hindu nationalist party, led by Arjun Sampath. The protest was called demanding that a law akin to the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1952, (PCR Act) to protect Brahmins from slander and defamatory comments on their caste identity from certain political sections be enacted.

Widespread criticism

While comparing slander of Brahmin sensitivities and identity to the expulsion of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir in the early 1990s, Ms. Kasthuri said Brahmins could not be called 'outsiders' by 'Telugu speaking people', who came to Tamil Nadu along with Telugu kings to take care of the needs of their harems.

Kasthuri's comment about the 'Telugu origins' of the DMK's first family has kicked up a storm in the State

She encountered widespread criticism for her comments, prompting her to clarify that she didn't cast aspersions on Telugu speakers as a whole. After coming out of the prison, Ms. Kasthuri thanked those critics for transforming 'a small voice like hers into a raging cyclone'.

Having returned to India in 2017 from the U.S., where she was living with her husband, Ms. Kasthuri, known for her spunky choice of films such as *Amaidi Padai*, *Indian* and *Thamizh Padam*, has been one of those celebrities who became ubiquitous on television, YouTube and social media, often opining on diverse topics – be it the language divide in India, the NEET controversy, federalism, MeToo or Tamil nationalism.

An avid quizzer and a former Miss Chennai, Ms. Kasthuri, who has acted in more than 50 films in multiple languages, emerged as an celebrity commentator as an eco-system of politically aligned social media personalities mushroomed.

Social media presence

Having been a busy actor until the early 2000s, Ms. Kasthuri took a break before turning heads with an item song in a spoof film, *Thamizh Padam*, featuring Mirchi Shiva in 2009.

She also hosted a quiz show on a Tamil private channel and continued to feature in other reality shows, including *Bigg Boss*.

She was seen taking on the political class, debating vexatious issues that yield no agreements and taking to task die-hard fans of Tamil film actors, riling their supporters and inviting senseless trolls. Having masqueraded as a fairly neutral voice on television and social media, Ms. Kasthuri is today identified mainly as someone who reflects the views of upper class, Tamil Brahmins in politics.

With people consuming news and information mainly on social media, the phenomenon of celebrity talking heads and online opinion makers, especially critics, finding themselves in the cross hairs of the State government has only served to expose the double standards of the political establishment in Tamil Nadu, which wants to be seen as leading the ideological fight against the 'fascist' BJP government even while using the State's resources to jail critics.

However, Ms. Kasthuri's transformation from a former quizzer, actor and a well-informed neutral voice on several issues to a right-wing commentator talking about upper caste issues is difficult to miss, particularly after her decision to participate in the Indu Makkal Katchi protest.

She seeks to equate ridicule and criticism of privilege in society with hatred and hegemony.

LAHORE

Multiple cases against Imran's wife for remarks about Saudi Arabia

AP

Multiple cases have been registered in Punjab province of Pakistan against jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi for allegedly speaking against Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and former Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa had condemned her remarks. PTI

TEHRAN

Iran protests 'violent' arrest of students at Russian university

AFP

Iran has lodged a protest with Moscow regarding "violent" arrest of Iranian students at a university in the Russian city of Kazan. Two Iranian students who visited a visa extension centre at Kazan Federal University on Friday were arrested after being subjected to "inhumane and unprofessional beating" by the police. AFP

KANO

Nigeria's sharia police to raid betting shops after court ruling

AP

Islamic morality police in the northern Nigerian city of Kano are to resume their crackdown on betting shops after a supreme court ruling on gambling. The Nigerian supreme court quashed a 2005 law on Friday that established a national lottery commission and legalised sports betting and gambling. AFP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka gets IMF approval for fourth tranche of $3 billion aid

AFP

Sri Lanka's new NPP government led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake got the International Monetary Fund approval for a staff-level agreement to secure the fourth tranche of the nearly $3 billion bailout package. Altogether, the IMF has extended the island nation an Extended Fund Facility of $2.9 billion. PTI

Israeli strikes on Gaza leave 19 dead and 40 injured

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said that 19 persons, including at least six children, were killed by Israeli air strikes and tank fire on Saturday.

Agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said that "19 people were killed and more than 40 others wounded in three massacres caused by Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip between midnight and this morning", as well as by tank fire in Rafah in the territory's south.

At least 44,056 people have been killed in Gaza during more than 13 months of war, most of them civilians.

At least 15 killed, dozens hurt in Israeli air strikes on Beirut

In the fourth strike on the Lebanese Capital in less than a week, 63 people have been injured while search is on for more survivors; escalation comes after the U.S. envoy's visit to the region

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israeli air strikes on Saturday killed at least 15 persons and injured dozens in central Beirut, officials said, as diplomats scrambled to broker a cease-fire.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said the death toll could rise as emergency responders dug through the rubble looking for survivors. DNA tests are being used to identify the victims, it said, adding that 63 people were wounded. The strikes were the fourth in the Lebanese capital in less than a week.

The escalation comes after U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein travelled to the region this week in an attempt to broker a cease-fire deal to end the more than 13 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which has erupted into full-on war in the past two months.

Unending woes: A man whose house came under attack by Israel in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood on Saturday. REUTERS

Israeli bombardment has killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon and wounded more than 15,000, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

Drone strike

The strikes at 4 a.m. destroyed an eight-story building in central Beirut and left a crater in the ground. Also on Saturday, a drone strike killed one person and injured another in the southern port city of Tyre, according to the state-run National News Agency.

Philippine V-P threatens to have President assassinated

Associated Press
MANILA

Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte said on Saturday she has contracted an assassin to kill the President, his wife and the House of Representatives Speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the "active threat" against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to an elite presidential guards force "for immediate proper action."

The Presidential Security Command boosted Mr. Marcos' security and said it considered the Vice-President's threat, which was "made so brazenly in public," a national security issue. The security force said it was "coordinating with law enforcement agencies to detect, deter, and defend against any and all threats to the President and the first family."

Mr. Marcos ran with Ms. Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in the May 2022 elections and both won with landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity.

The two leaders, however, rapidly had a bitter falling-out over key differences. Ms. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body.

Old friends: Sara Duterte was President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s running mate in the 2022 polls before the two fell out. REUTERS

New rules at COP29 allow carbon trading between nations

Agence France-Presse
BAKU

New rules allowing wealthy polluting countries to buy carbon-cutting "offsets" from developing nations were agreed at UN climate talks on Saturday, in a move already raising fears they will be used to greenwash climate targets.

This decision, taken during extra time at the COP29 conference, is a major step forward in a thorny debate that has dragged through climate talks for years, and diplomats broke into applause when the decision was gavelled.

Supporters say a UN-backed framework for carbon trading could direct investment to developing nations where many credits are generated.

Critics' fears

Critics fear if set up poorly, these schemes could undermine the world's efforts to curb global warming.

Carbon credits are generated by activities that reduce or avoid planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions, like planting trees, protecting existing carbon sinks or replacing polluting coal with clean-energy alternatives.

UN panel adopts resolution for first-ever treaty to punish crimes against humanity

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

A key United Nations General Assembly committee adopted a resolution on Friday paving way for negotiations on a first-ever treaty on preventing and punishing crimes against humanity after Russia dropped amendments that would have derailed the effort.

The resolution was approved by consensus by the General Assembly's legal committee, which includes all 193-member UN nations, after tense last-minute negotiations between its supporters and Russia that dragged through the day of the event.

There was a loud applause when the chairman of the committee gavelled the resolution's approval.

It is virtually certain to be adopted when the General Assembly puts it to a final vote on December 4.

"Today's agreement to start up negotiations on a much-needed international treaty is an historic achievement that was a long time coming," Richard Dicker, Human Rights Watch's senior legal adviser for advocacy, said.

Collateral damage: Ukrainian troops at a memorial for civilians and soldiers killed during the war in central Kyiv on Saturday. AP

'Crucial message'

"It sends a crucial message that impunity for the kinds of crimes inflicted on civilians in Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, southern Israel, Gaza and Myanmar will not go unheeded," he said.

The resolution calls for a time-bound process with preparatory sessions in 2026 and 2027, and three-week negotiating sessions in 2028 and 2029 to finalise a treaty on crimes against humanity.

NATO chief discusses 'global security' with bloc-sceptic Trump

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

NATO chief Mark Rutte held talks with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump in Florida on the "global security issues facing the alliance", a spokeswoman said on Saturday.

The meeting took place on Friday in Palm Beach, NATO's Farah Dakhlallah said in a statement.

In his first term Mr. Trump aggressively pushed Europe to step up defence spending and questioned the fairness of the NATO transatlantic alliance.

The former Dutch Prime Minister had said he wanted to meet Mr. Trump two days after Mr. Trump was elected on November 5, and discuss the threat of increasingly warming ties between North Korea and Russia.

Mr. Trump's thumping victory to return to the U.S. presidency has set nerves jangling in Europe that he could pull the plug on vital Washington military aid for Ukraine.

NATO allies say keeping Kyiv in the fight against Moscow is key to both European and American security.

Sport

Chelsea beats Leicester

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
LEICESTER

Chelsea closed the gap on Premier League leader Liverpool to five points by beating Leicester City 2-1 on Saturday.

Arsenal returned to winning ways in the Premier League with Bukayo Saka and captain Martin Odegaard inspiring a comfortable 3-0 home victory against Nottingham Forest.

Victory kept Arsenal in fourth place with 22 points from 12 games.

The results:

Premier League: Leicester 1 (Ayew 90+5-pen) lost to Chelsea 2 (Jackson 15, Fernandez 75); Arsenal 3 (Saka 15, Partey 52, Nwaneri 86) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Aston Villa 2 (Watkins 36, Barkley 77) drew with Crystal Palace 2 (Sarr 4, Devenny 45+1); Everton 0 drew with Brentford 0; Bournemouth 1 (Brooks 90+3) lost to Brighton 2 (Pedro 4, Mitoma 49); Fulham 1 (Iwobi 20) lost to Wolves 4 (Cunha 31, 87, Gomes 53, Cunha 87, Guedes 90+5).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 5 (Palacios 30, Schick 32, 52, 71, Xhaka 82) bt Heidenheim 2 (Dorsch 10, Honsak 21); Stuttgart 2 (Fuehrich 53, Diehl 78) bt Bochum 0; Borussia Dortmund 4 (Beier 7, Nmecha 40, Brandt 66, Gittens 77) bt Freiburg 0; Hoffenheim 4 (Hlozek 17, 82, Bischof 50, Bruun Larsen 87) bt RB Leipzig 3 (Orban 15, Nusa 19, N'Soki 67-og); Wolfsburg 1 (Baku 71) bt Union Berlin 0.

LaLiga: Valencia 4 (Tarrega 8, Duro 50, 53, Lopez 56) bt Real Betis 2 (Duro 14-og, Avila 66).

Serie A: Verona 0 lost to Inter Milan 5 (Correa 17, Thuram 22, 25, De Vrij 31, Bisseck 41).

On Friday: Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 3 (Kane 63-pen, 90+3-pen, 90+5) bt Augsburg 0.

LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Rodriguez 70, Nyom 73) bt Valladolid 0.

Mother's Grace for 1000 Guineas

HYDERABAD: Trainer Adhirajsingh Jodha's Mother's Grace may score over her rivals in the HPSL Golconda 1000 Guineas, the first classic of the Hyderabad Winter Races, to be held here on Sunday (Nov. 24).

1 MANCHERIAL PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.10 p.m.: 1. Exponent (6) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Taaliyah (8) Mukesh 58.5, 3. Politics (7) Md. Ismail 57.5, 4. Think Of God (5) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 5. MN'S Council (4) M. Mark 57, 6. Bien Pensant (1) Surya Prakash 56.5, 7. Fortune Art (2) G. Naresh 52.5 and 8. Zidane (3) Kuldeep Jr. 50.5.
1. TAALIYAH, 2. EXPONENT, 3. POLITICS

2 WINDSCALE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.40: 1. Authoritarian (6) Trevor 56, 2. Corte Madera (5) Saqlain 56, 3. Country's Dictator (1) Mohit 56, 4. Bestie (4) Mukesh 54.5, 5. Divine Faith (7) Alex Rozario 54.5, 6. Double Bubble (2) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 7. Zuza (3) Ashad Asbar 54.5.
1. AUTHORITARIAN, 2. ZUZA, 3. DIVINE FAITH

3 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.15: 1. Annhilator (2) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. Park Lane (8) Md. Ismail 59.5, 3. Pancho (1) B. Nikhil 57.5, 4. City Cruise (5) R.S. Jodha 56, 5. Varaneek Gold (4) P. Sai K 56, 6. Sadiya (3) Kuldeep Jr. 55, 7. Hoping Queen (7) Mohit 54 and 8. Smart Boy (6) G. Naresh 53.5.
1. ANNHILATOR, 2. PARK LANE, 3. SADIYA

4 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: 1. Gloria (4) Akshay K 60, 2. My Challenge (1) Trevor 58, 3. Genie (2) Nakhat Singh 57, 4. Mirzeta (7) M. Mark 55.5, 5. Emperors Charm (5) Alex Rozario 54, 6. Swiss Girl (6) B.R. Kumar 54, 7. Balahaka (3) P. Sai K 52.5 and 8. Nav Lakhaa (–).
1. GLORIA, 2. MY CHALLENGE, 3. SWISS GIRL

5 ROYAL TERN PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. City Of Blessing (10) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Golden Gazelle (6) Vivek G 60, 3. Trishul (5) Ashad Asbar 59, 4. Lady Danger (3) Mukesh 58, 5. N R I Ultrapower (1) Abhay Singh 57, 6. Detective (8) Trevor 56.5, 7. Happy Soul (2) Surya Prakash 56.5, 8. Ampere's Touch (9) Gaurav 56, 9. First Class (11) B. Nikhil 56, 10. Notre Dame (7) Md. Ekram 54.5, 11. Windsor (12) Saqlain 54.5 and 12. Caraxes (4) G. Naresh 53.5.
1. HAPPY SOUL, 2. GOLDEN GAZELLE, 3. DETECTIVE

6 LINGAPUR CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Lashka (1) Trevor 61.5, 2. Calista Girl (4) Gaurav 59, 3. Clefairy (7) M. Mark 55, 4. Exclusive Black (8) Md. Ismail 53.5, 5. Wind Sprite (3) Afroz K 53.5, 6. Ariette (9) Akshay K 53, 7. Hoping Sky (12) Mohit 53, 8. Rolls Royce (2) Md. Ekram 53, 9. Burgundy Black (10) Mukesh 52.5, 10. Fara (5) G. Naresh 52.5, 11. Shah Of Iran (11) Surya Prakash 52.5 and 12. Cosmico (6) B. Nikhil 50.
1. ARIETTE, 2. LASHKA, 3. CALISTA GIRL

7 HPSL GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (Gr. 2) (1,600m) (Terms), Fillies 3-y-o only, 4.15: 1. Arion One (8) Saqlain 57, 2. Chotipari (3) I. Chisty 57, 3. Inspire (7) Antony Raj 57, 4. Maigira (4) Trevor 57, 5. Mother's Grace (9) Sandesh 57, 6. Mountain Touch (1) Ashad Asbar 57, 7. Nyx (5) Akshay K 57, 8. Psychic Star (2) Vivek G 57, 9. Star Of Night (10) Alex Rozario 57 and 10. White Pearl (6) Mulkesh 57.
1. MOTHER'S GRACE, 2. NYX, 3. PSYCHIC STAR

8 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (DIV. III) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Gifted Girl (5) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Vital Sign (6) Alex Rozario 60, 3. Clara (1) Akshay K 57.5, 4. Grey Sky (7) Md. Ekram 56.5, 5. Gun For Gold (2) G. Naresh 56.5, 6. Muaser (4) P. Ajeeth K 55, 7. Reining Queen (3) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 8. Cutie Pie (8) Surya Prakash 53.5.
1. CLARA, 2. GIFTED GIRL, 3. MUASER

Day's Best: **ARIETTE**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Ascoval wins the feature event

BENGALURU: Pradeep Annaiah-trained Ascoval (Trevor up) won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (Nov 23). The winner is owned by Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal & Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal.

THE RESULTS:

1. BEGINNERS PLATE (1,100M): SEE THE LIGHT (Trevor) 1, Gloriousness (Suraj) 2, Devate (Sandesh) 3 and Higgs Boson (M. Rajesh K) 4. 1/2, 13 and 1-1/4. 1m, 06.49s. ₹15 (w), 10 and 14 (p), SHP: 21, THP: 22, FP: 21, Q: 13, Trinella: 43, Exacta: 118. Favourite: See The Light. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

2. SHIVANASAMUDRA FALLS PLATE (DIV. III), (1,400M): POWER OF BEAUTY (Arvind K) 1, Martha (S. Shareef) 2, Lords Grace (Chethan K) 3 and Felisa (L.A. Rozario) 4. 6-1/2, Nk and 2-1/4. 1m, 26.35s. ₹18 (w), 11, 18 and 106 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 190, FP: 84, Q: 77, Trinella: 2,488, Exacta: 6,019. Favourite: Power Of Beauty. Owners: Dr. C.N. Devayya & Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

3. PHAR LAP PLATE (1,100M): SMALL DREAMS (Dhanu S) 1, Martino (Antony) 2, El Asesino (Akshay K) 3 and Days Date (L.A. Rozario) 4. 1-1/4, Hd and 3-3/4. 1m, 07.18s. ₹85 (w), 18, 11 and 12 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 53, FP: 357, Q: 153, Trinella: 570, Exacta: 1,990. Favourite: El Asesino. Owners: Mr. Vikram Sreeram, Mrs. Sandhya Sreeram, Mr. Sandeep C Raghuram, Mr. V. Srinivasa Murthy, Dr. T.S. Ravindra, Mr. Kiran Gowda, Mr. C.N. Shashikiran, Mr. Cheriyan Abraham & Mr. Harish Appareddy. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

4. SHIVANASAMUDRA FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400M): QUEEN OF KYIV (Suraj) 1, Monterio (S. Shareef) 2, Cat Whiskers (Rayan) 3 and Millbrook (Jagadeesh) 4. Not run: Gallon Of My Love. 3/4, 7-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 26.33s. ₹17 (w), 10, 18 and 19 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 40, FP: 51, Q: 31, Trinella: 161, Exacta: 843. Favourite: Queen Of Kyiv. Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mrs. B.E. Saldanha & So Blest Trading Co. Pvt Ltd rep. by Mrs. Rashmee A. Amersey. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

5. V. VENUGOPAL NAIDU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600M): RANQUELINO (Akshay K) 1, August (Antony) 2, Bharat (Trevor) 3 and Krystallos (G. Vivek) 4. 1-3/4, 5-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 36.89s. ₹42 (w), 15, 19 and 12 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 39, FP: 156, Q: 77, Trinella: 173, Exacta: 1,054. Favourite: August. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. Kishore M. Dingra, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. S.R. Sanas & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

6. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): ASCOVAL (Trevor) 1, Yukan (Akshay K) 2, Aldgate (Antony) 3 and Jersey King (Suraj) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 7-1/2. 1m, 11.74s. ₹22 (w), 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 24, FP: 83, Q: 53, Trinella: 266. Favourite: Ascoval. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal & Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7. SMARTY JONES PLATE (1,200M): NEVER GIVE IN (Antony) 1, Vivaldo (Akshay K) 2, Tripitaka (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Stellantis (Trevor) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 11.98s. ₹20 (w), 11, 12 and 15 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 41, FP: 23, Q: 19, Trinella: 227, Exacta: 360. Favourite: Never Give In. Owners: Mr. N. Nitin Chengappa, M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Adil K. Gandhy, Mrs. Yashika Apana, Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. V. Narayanan, Mr. J. Krishnadev Rao, Mr. Ravikanth Badruka & Mr. N.R. Nandan. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

8. SHIVANASAMUDRA FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400M): MAYNE MAGIC (Antony) 1, Don Carlos (Trevor) 2, Promiseofthefuture (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Connecting Dots (Shreyas S) 4. 1-1/4, 4-3/4 and 3. 1m, 24.59s. ₹72 (w), 21, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 55, FP: 274, Q: 227, Trinella: 1,092, Exacta: 58,233. Favourite: Promiseofthefuture. Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

Jackpot: ₹5,955 (48 tkts.); Runner up: 181 (678 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,836 (four tkts.); (ii): 804 (14 tkts.).

IT'S DIFFERENT

Wicket has changed considerably after day one, says McDonald

GETTY IMAGES

Australia coach Andrew McDonald discussed his team's prospects after the second day's play. "The wicket has changed considerably and if you look at the seam and swing, it was down compared to Friday. Rahul and Jaiswal played extremely well but there was some play-and-miss, so anything can happen if you get some edges," he said.

BANTER TIME

I play with him in IPL, have a good bonding: Harshit on Starc incident

AP

The second day of the Perth Test witnessed some drama. It centred on the banter between Mitchell Starc and Harshit Rana, the latter saying it was done with a sense of humour. "We are good friends. I play with him in the IPL and have a good bonding. This keeps happening, it's nothing major... we just exchanged a few words".

MCDONALDSPEAK

'No doubt we are well behind, but Test cricket ebbs and flows'

GETTY IMAGES

Australia coach Andrew McDonald was upbeat despite a tough day in office. "The morale is always good, it's a pretty level team whether it's a good day or a bad day. There's no doubt we are well behind at this stage, but that's not to say that tomorrow [Sunday] can't change very quickly. Test cricket ebbs and flows," he said.

THE PURSE

Franchises have to spend a minimum of ₹90 crore

FILE PHOTO

Just like the maximum purse a franchise can spend at an IPL auction, the franchises also have a minimum amount that has to be used on developing the squad. The minimum to be spent this year is ₹90 crore, the same as the purse for the previous mega auction ahead of the 2022 edition.

Jaiswal and Rahul dig their heels in as India pulls ahead at the Optus

The openers stitch together an unbeaten 172-run partnership; Australian bowlers made to toil; Bumrah finishes with a five-for; Harshit picks up three

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Unstoppable: Jaiswal, right, and Rahul's splendid stand helped India swell its advantage to 218, forcing Cummins' men to play catch-up. AFP

If 17 wickets and the supremacy of pace were Friday's defining tales, Saturday was about the merits of patience and the virtues of old-fashioned batting. At close on the second day of the first Test here at the Optus Stadium, India muscled its way to 172 for no loss in the second innings.

It was an effort headlined by openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (90 batting) and K.L. Rahul (62 batting). The duo's splendid partnership helped India stretch its overall lead to 218 and Australia is resigned to play catch-up, especially after its first innings had paused at 104.

The Indian second innings had an ideal start even if Jaiswal's initial swipe off Mitchell Starc, that just scythed through the air, caused a minor scare. His senior partner Rahul had a quick chat and soon the two settled into a nice rhythm. Jaiswal flicked Starc and cut Pat Cummins while Rahul, more sheet-anchor than quicksilver, was not averse about expressing himself.

Australian skipper Cummins swapped his bowlers around but to no avail. Later he used Mitchell Marsh and even Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head. With Jaiswal moving ahead, Rahul uncorked his own version of magic with a straight drive off Cummins, which was all aesthetics and geometric precision. Even Josh Hazlewood could not dislodge the two batters and the alliance kept gaining strength.

After tea, Jaiswal etched his 50 and in a while, the openers had stretched the total to 100. There were the odd moments of disquiet like when Jaiswal, on 51, edged Starc but Usman Khawaja was slow to react, and then Rahul nearly got run-out. The latter got to his 50 eventually and as the shadows crept upon the pitch, India still relished its batting sunshine. As if to celebrate, Jaiswal whipped and lofted Starc and Nathan Lyon respectively for sixes.

Earlier, the morning gleaned its musical notes from the drums of the Bharat Army, and resuming at the overnight 67 for seven, Australia leant on Starc to delay the inevitable. But when Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Alex Carey in the day's second over, it looked as if the host might wilt.

However, Starc had other ideas. The southpaw blocked well and farmed the strike. Even then when Harshit Rana scalped Lyon, stunning the latter with his speed to lure an edge, an Indian second innings seemed imminent. Just that Starc refused to budge and found an ally in Hazlewood.

The tail did wag, not furiously but at a steady pace and a 25-run last-wicket partnership spilling past 100 deliveries, took shape. Mohammed Siraj, Nitish Kumar and Washington Sundar were all employed but Starc chugged on.

He pulled Harshit, indulged in some banter with his Kolkata Knight Riders' team-mate and was also hit on the helmet by the latter. Finally minutes before lunch, Starc (26) miscued a lofted shot off Harshit, leaving India with a first-innings lead of 46. A tally that grew through the day, and one that should help the visitor begin well in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
150 in 49.4 overs

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
Usman Khawaja c Kohli b Bumrah 8 *(19b, 1x4)*, Nathan McSweeney lbw b Bumrah 10 *(13b, 2x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne lbw b Siraj 2 *(52b)*, Steve Smith lbw b Bumrah 0 *(1b)*, Travis Head b Harshit 11 *(13b, 2x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Rahul b Siraj 6 *(19b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey c Pant b Bumrah 21 *(31b, 3x4)*, Pat Cummins c Pant b Bumrah 3 *(5b)*, Mitchell Starc c Pant b Harshit 26 *(112b, 2x4)*, Nathan Lyon c Rahul b Harshit 5 *(16b)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 7 *(31b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-4): 5; Total (in 51.2 overs): 104.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (McSweeney, 2.3 overs), 2-19 (Khawaja, 6.4), 3-19 (Smith, 6.5), 4-31 (Head, 11.1), 5-38 (Marsh, 16.5), 6-47 (Labuschagne, 20.6), 7-59 (Cummins, 24.2), 8-70 (Carey, 28.1), 9-79 (Lyon, 33.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 18-6-30-5, Siraj 13-7-20-2, Harshit 15.2-3-48-3, Nitish 3-0-4-0, Washington 2-1-1-0.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal (batting) 90 *(193b, 7x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul (batting) 62 *(153b, 4x4)*; Extras (lb-11, nb-4, w-5): 20; Total (for no loss in 57 overs): 172.

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 12-2-43-0, Hazlewood 10-5-9-0, Cummins 13-2-44-0, Marsh 6-0-27-0, Lyon 13-3-28-0, Labuschagne 2-0-2-0, Head 1-0-8-0.

Harshit all praise for Bumrah's leadership

Taking flight: Harshit not only realised his dream of playing for India, but also made an impressive debut. GETTY IMAGES

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Thursday night was a difficult one for Harshit Rana. Having been told about his imminent Test debut, the Delhi speedster tossed and turned as excitement and nerves equally kept him awake for a long time. But when he did turn up in the India whites on Friday here at the Optus Stadium, it became the turn of the Aussie batters to have sleepless nights.

Travis Head, his first Test wicket, was the result of an incredible delivery that angled in and straightened just a shade to clip off-stump. "The idea was to attack the stumps and I got the wicket. In the team meeting we had made some plans and I stuck to it," Harshit told the media on Saturday. And as for an inkling about his debut? "I got to know on the previous day of the Test and I did cry after making a speech in the meeting," he said.

The 22-year-old India pacer praised the leadership skills of Jasprit Bumrah and also the batting effort of Yashasvi Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul. "Once Bumrah bhai bowled like that, it also inspires you to do the same and you are bound to get wickets. Rahul and Jaiswal worked extremely hard on this pitch and it inspired all of us," Harshit said.

Still in awe over his Test debut, Harshit quipped: "This is a big dream for me, to play for India. Six years ago, my father and I used to wake up early to watch cricket in Australia through television and now I am here, this is huge for me. The camp before this match really helped me adjust to the conditions."

Loading in Jeddah: the biggest auction with star Indian players to go under the hammer

IPL

Amol Karhadkar
JEDDAH

With Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru having massive purses, it's all but certain that many marquee names will take home huge pay cheques

The 2025 Auction will be the first instance of the previous season's five captains up for sale

Off the Red Sea, Jeddah – the second-largest city of Saudi Arabia – is considered the gateway to the holy city of Mecca. Over the next two days, however, the Benchmark Arena will not only put the nation on the cricketing map, but also end up being the gateway to riches for a plethora of cricketers.

A total of 577 cricketers – legends and lesser-known names – will hope to draw the franchises' attention during the annual bidding fiesta called the IPL Player Auction.

As the franchise entourages descended on the port city, indications are that it will be the grandest auction – not just metaphorically – of the 18 auctions held in the history of the Indian Premier League.

Not only because it will have the largest-ever purse – ₹641.50 crore this time around (in the last full auction in 2022, it was ₹561.50 crore) – but also because of the presence of some of the biggest names in the auction list.

The field is usually deprived of marquee Indian names, due to the IPL retention policy. This time around, however, it is different.

Rishabh Pant, K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer – who lifted the IPL trophy as KKR captain last year – will feature in the IPL Auction. Add to the list the likes of Faf du Plessis and Sam Curran, and it will be the first instance of the previous season's five captains going under the hammer.

With the presence of the Indian trio – along with Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj – it will be interesting to see if Mitchell Starc's highest auction bid of ₹24.75 crore will be breached this time around.

With two franchises – Punjab Kings (₹110.50 crore) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (₹83 crore) – in possession of massive purses, it's all but certain that many marquee names will take home huge pay cheques.

RTM's modified avatar

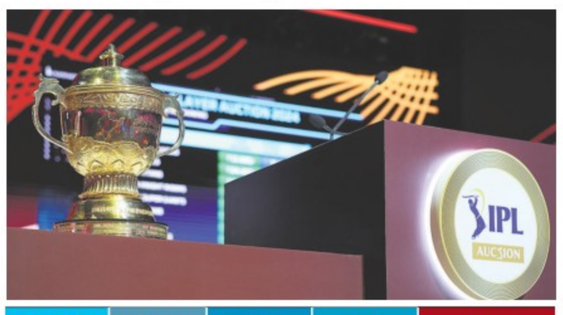
The two-day auction will be made even more interesting with the return of the Right to Match (RTM) option in a modified avatar.

If a player's existing franchise exercises the RTM option, the one with the highest bid will be given an option to inflate the bid according to its choice.

While the franchises are planning to use the incremental bid judiciously, it will be interesting to see if an uncapped player, especially, benefits immensely due to the incremental bid.

The Big Picture

A look at how the teams stack up ahead of the mega auction in Jeddah on Sunday and Monday



Franchise	Players retained	Slots available	RTM available	Purse available (cr.)
CSK	5	20	1	55
DC	4	21	2	73
GT	5	20	1	69
KKR	6	19	0	51
LSG	5	20	1	69
MI	5	20	1	45
PBKS	2	23	4	110.50
RCB	3	22	3	83
RR	6	19	0	41
SRH	5	20	1	45

Auction at a glance

Total players **577**

Available slots **204**

Available purse **₹641.50** crore

Auction starts at 3.30 p.m. IST

Mohun Bagan overpowers JFC, climbs to the top of the table

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Bagan's pride: Liston threaded his way past four defenders to score his first goal of the season. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mohun Bagan Super Giant scored thrice without a reply to convincingly overpower Jamshedpur FC in an ISL-11 encounter at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

The win saw Mohun Bagan SG replace Bengaluru FC at the top of the standings.

Both teams were tied on 17 points (eight matches) but the Kolkata giant moved to No. 1 with a better goal difference (8 to BFC's 7).

Bagan led 2-0 at the break as Tom Aldred and Liston Colaco found the target. Jamie Maclaren added one late in the second half to complete the drubbing.

The host, which dominated the contest right from the start, went ahead in the 15th minute through a set-piece.

A Dimitri Petratos corner was cleared by the Jamshedpur defence but Bagan midfielder Deepak Tangri retrieved the ball and floated it into the crowded box. Aldred finished the sequence with a superb volley.

Brilliant strike

Colaco's dribbling skills came to the fore as he weaved past four JFC defenders and scored his first goal of the season. His remarkable effort doubled Bagan's lead just before the break.

Bagan put the contest beyond Jamshepur's reach in the 75th minute when Tangri's long floater found Manvir Singh on the right.

The Bagan midfielder raced past the JFC defenders and set up Maclaren who tapped home.

The results:

At Kolkata: Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Tom Aldred 15, Liston Colaco 45+2, Jamie Maclaren 75) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.

At New Delhi: Punjab FC 1 (Ivan Novoselec 88) lost to NorthEast United FC 2 (Guillermo Fernandez 15, Nestor Albiach 18).

INBRIEF

The Netherlands makes maiden Davis Cup final

The Netherlands made history as it reached the Davis Cup final for the first time with a 2-0 defeat of Germany on Friday.

The result: Netherlands 2 bt Germany 0 (Botic Van de Zandschulp bt Daniel Altmaier 6-4, 6-7(12), 6-3; Tallon Griekspoor bt Jan-Lennard Struff 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4).

Louis-Athanaze stand revives WI against Bangladesh

Mikyle Louis and Alick Athanaze fell agonizingly short of maiden centuries as the West Indies rallied from 25 for two to reach 250 for five against Bangladesh on the first day of the first Test at North Sound in Antigua on Friday.

The scores: West Indies 250/5 in 84 overs (Louis 97, Athanaze 90) vs Bangladesh. **Toss**: Bangladesh.

Russell on pole in Las Vegas, Verstappen ahead of Norris

George Russell put Mercedes on pole for the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Friday as Max Verstappen moved a step closer to a fourth successive Formula One title by qualifying ahead of Lando Norris. Red Bull's Verstappen secured fifth place on the grid with with his McLaren rival sixth. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz joined Russell on the front row with Alpine's Pierre Gasly a surprising third fastest and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fourth.

Sriram-Rithvik duo wins Rovereto Challenger crown

Top seeds Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli beat the second seeds Theo Arribage of France and Francisco Cabral of Portugal 6-3, 2-6, [12-10] in the doubles final of the €120,950 Challenger tennis in Rovereto, Italy, on Saturday.

Other results: $15,000 ITF men, Luanda, Angola:
Semifinals: Oliver Anderson (Aus) bt Chirag Duhan 6-2, 6-1.
Doubles: Semifinals: Gregor Ramskogler (Aut) & Jasza Szajrych (Pol) bt Duhan & Lorenzo Lorusso (Ita) 6-1, 6-7(2), [10-3].
$40,000 ITF women, Caloundra: Pre-quarterfinals: Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Monique Barry (Nzl) 6-2, 6-2; Ankita Raina bt Emerson Jones (Aus) 7-5, 4-6, [12-10].

Satwik-Chirag pair bows out of China Masters badminton

Korea's Jin Yong and Seo Seung Jae got the better of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty 21-18, 14-21, 21-16 in the men's doubles semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament in Shenzhen on Friday.

10 men Namdhari holds Delhi to goalless draw in I-League

Despite playing with 10 men for over 30 minutes, Namdhari FC held on for a hard-fought goalless draw against Delhi FC in the I-League in Sri Bhaini Sahib, Punjab, on Saturday.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: China Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 a.m.
Australia vs India: 1st Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.50 a.m.
SMAT: JioCinema, 9 a.m. onwards
Formula One: Las Vegas GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs Pakistan: 1st ODI, FanCode, 1 p.m.
IPL Auction: Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 2.30 p.m. onwards
LaLiga: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 3, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Tennis: Davis Cup finals, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Indrajith's opening salvo fires TN to an easy win

Tripura had its moments thanks to Sridam Paul's blazing effort and late cameos from Rajat Dey and Manisankar Murasingh; Uttarakhand pips Karnataka thanks to Choudhary's ton

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Vivek Krishnan
INDORE

A six-hitting blitzkrieg by Tamil Nadu's batters on a flat track paved the way for a 43-run win over Tripura in its opening Group B game of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Saturday.

The team in yellow bludgeoned a record 13 sixes at the Holkar Stadium, eclipsing its previous best of 10 against Jharkhand in 2021. The chief protagonist in Tamil Nadu's triumphant start was B. Indrajith, who slammed a career-best 78 off 39 balls, with five fours and as many sixes to boot.

Belligerent: Tamil Nadu's Indrajith waded into the Tripura attack with five fours and as many sixes. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Uncharacteristic

He is known for his languid strokeplay, aided by supple wrists, but in a clash that began at 11 a.m., the 30-year-old, who said he was opening the batting for the first time, was all belligerence as he took on the Tripura bowlers.

With N. Jagadeesan also playing his part with a half-century that resulted in an 115-run stand, off just 57 balls for the second wicket, Tamil Nadu had the firepower to amass 234 for four.

In the run chase, Tripura had its moments thanks to Sridam Paul's blazing effort (45, 20b, 7x4, 2x6) and late cameos from Rajat Dey and Manisankar Murasingh, but the task was a bridge too far. The team from the northeast finished on 191 for nine.

Indrajith had only played 23 T20 matches before this, with a highest score of 46.

But on a placid pitch, Indrajith was willing to show another side to his game, which may prove timely given that the IPL mega auction is to be held over the next two days.

Besides the shots down the ground that sailed into the largely vacant stands, there was also cheekiness on display, as he moved across his stumps and paddle-swept seamer Ajay Sarkar for a six over short fine leg.

Opener Yuvraj Choudhary's 123 helped Uttarakhand clinch a tense six-run win against Karnataka at the Emerald Heights International School ground on Saturday. In a high-scoring game that went down to the proverbial wire, Uttarakhand posted 215 for five after electing to bat. Karnataka's response fell marginally short as it was bundled for 209 in 19.5 overs.

SMAT - FIRST ROUND SCORES

Group-A: Rajkot: Hyderabad 248/4 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 55, Tilak Varma 151, Rahul Buddhi 30) bt Meghalaya 69 in 15.1 overs (Anikethreddy 4/11, Tanay Thyagarajan 3/15); **Toss:** Meghalaya.
Madhya Pradesh 216/6 in 20 overs (Arpit Gaud 66, Harpreet Singh 52, Venkatesh Iyer 36, Khiangte Vanrotlinga 3/52) bt Mizoram 114/9 in 20 overs (Mohit Jangra 50, Tripuresh Singh 3/19); **Toss:** Mizoram.
Rajasthan 224/4 in 20 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 64, Mahipal Lomror 51 n.o., Zubair Ali 49 n.o.) bt Bihar 116/8 in 20 overs; **Toss:** Bihar.
Punjab 179 in 19.4 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 35, Anmolpreet Singh 39, Karan Lal 3/23) lost to Bengal 181/6 in 19 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 43, Shahbaz Ahmed 100 n.o., Abhishek Sharma 3/37); **Toss:** Bengal.
Group-B: Indore: Saurashtra 157/9 in 20 overs (Vishvaraj Jadeja 60, Md. Saptulla 4/40) bt Sikkim 103/6 in 20 overs (Nilesh Lamichaney 55 n.o.); **Toss:** Saurashtra.
Tamil Nadu 234/5 in 20 overs (B. Indrajith 78, N. Jagadeesan 50, M. Shahrukh Khan 31, Vijay Shankar 38) bt Tripura 191/9 in 20 overs (Sridam Paul 45, Rajat Dey 38, Manisankar Murasingh 37); **Toss:** TN.
Uttarakhand 215/5 in 20 overs (Yuvraj Chaudhary 123, Aditya Tare 42 n.o.) bt Karnataka 209 in 19.5 overs (L.R. Chethan 31, Mayank Agarwal 48, Krishnan Shrijith 72 n.o., Shubhang Hegde 36, Akash Madhwal 3/48, Himanshu Bisht 3/33); **Toss:** Uttarakhand.
Gujarat 184/5 in 20 overs (Aarya Desai 78, Axar Patel 43 n.o.) lost to Baroda 188/5 in 19.3 overs (Shivalik Sharma 64, Hardik Pandya 74 n.o.); **Toss:** Baroda.
Group-C: Mumbai: Arunachal Pradesh 77 in 18 overs (Mayank Dagar 3/11, Akash Vasisht 3/16) lost to Himachal Pradesh 79/2 in 5.2 overs; **Toss:** HP.
Manipur 86 in 19.1 overs (Rex Rajkumar 30, Yuzvendra Chahal 4/9) lost to Haryana 90/2 in 6.4 overs (Rahul Tewatia 43 n.o.); **Toss:** Manipur.
Jammu & Kashmir 224/4 in 20 overs (Qamran Iqbal 61, Abdul Samad 74 n.o.) bt Jharkhand 199/9 in 20 overs (Utkarsh Singh 54, Pankaj Kumar 56, Bal Krishna 33, Abid Mushtaq 4/42); **Toss:** Jharkhand.
Delhi 233/3 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 102, Himmat Singh 77 n.o.) bt Uttar Pradesh 186/8 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 61, Rinku Singh 70); **Toss:** UP.
Group-D: Visakhapatnam: Pondicherry 183/5 in 20 overs (Ajay Rohera 105, Krishna Pandey 30 n.o.) lost to Chandigarh 184/5 in 19.1 overs (Shivam Bhambri 69, Raj Bawa 61); **Toss:** Chandigarh.
Vidarbha 216/6 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 77, Parth Rekhade 39, Shubham Dubey 30, Pradeep Pradhan 4/33) bt Odisha 183 in 19.1 overs (Swastik Samal 63, Gaurav Choudhary 37, Harshit Rathod 30, Darshan Nalkande 3/35); **Toss:** Vidarbha.
Vizianagaram: Railways 127 in 19.3 overs (Ashutosh Sharma 31, Mukhtar Hussain 4/18) lost to Assam 129/7 in 18.4 overs (Ruhinandan Pegu 35); **Toss:** Railways.
Group-E: Hyderabad: Nagaland 150/4 in 20 overs (Shamphri Terang 59 n.o., Chetan Bist 35) lost to Maharashtra 151/4 in 15.1 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 62, Ankit Bawne 73 n.o.); **Toss:** Maharashtra.
Mumbai 250/4 in 20 overs (Prithvi Shaw 33, Shreyas Iyer 130 n.o., Shams Mulani 41) bt Goa 224/8 in 20 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 40, Suyash Prabhudessai 52, Vikas Singh 47 n.o.); **Toss:** Goa.
Services 149/9 in 20 overs (Vineet Dhankhar 35, Mohit Ahlawat 41, Akhil Scaria 5/30) lost to Kerala 153/7 in 18.1 overs (Sanju Samson 75, Pulkit Narang 4/7); **Toss:** Kerala.

Looking forward to playing World championship match since I started playing chess, says challenger Gukesh

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The challenger will have the white pieces in the opening game of the World chess championship. So D. Gukesh will make the first move against Ding Liren in the much-awaited World title match in Singapore on Monday.

That was decided on Saturday, during the opening ceremony, in which the players were asked to pick the cards.

The World title match will be played in a best-of-14 games format, with the man who makes 7.5 points earning the right to be crowned the king of world chess.

If it is a 7-7 draw, tiebreakers, of lesser time control, will decide the winner.

The general consensus in the chess world is that the 18-year-old Indian starts as the favourite. He goes into the match in top form, while Ding has been struggling. Gukesh, however, reiterated that form didn't matter.

"I am going to face Ding Liren, who has been one of the best players in the world for more than a decade," Gukesh said at the media event ahead of the match.

"My job is pretty clear – just go into every game as the best version of myself and play the best moves in the position."

Ding, not for the first time, admitted his chess hadn't been that great of late.

"I reviewed my games from recent times and found that the quality was not so good and that my fighting spirit was not high," said the defending champion. "I intend to review some of my best games and I need to find this kind of confidence and also the fighting spirit to perform better."

Ding said he had been preparing for the match for the last three weeks. Gukesh, though, had been training for it ever since he became the challenger, by winning the Candidates tournament at Toronto, back in April.

"I have been looking forward to playing the World championship from the time I started playing chess," he said.

"The World championship is a special event. I have been working with my coach Gregorz Gajewski and my team of seconds. I have gained a lot from working with Gajewski. I have also been working with Paddy Upton, who has helped me with fitness."

Ding could feel at home in Singapore. "Everyone here speaks Chinese," he said.

"There is no time difference back home, so many fans will be watching the match. Here I met many fans, who gave gifts and hand-written letters. That made me feel good."

A lot to play for: Gukesh and Ding set for the battle of wits. FIDE

SNAPSHOTS

Spirited: There was intense action in the match between the Giants and Titans. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Giants get the better of Titans

Gujarat Giants edged Telugu Titans 31-28 for its third victory of the season in the Pro Kabaddi League at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Saturday. Parteek Dahiya registered his second Super 10 in as many games to overcome Vijay Malik's 15-point performance, as the two teams played out a close contest.

Gaurav Gill takes the lead in Robusta Rally

Gaurav Gill and co-driver Aniruddha Rangnekar took the lead on the opening day of the Robusta Rally, the fifth and penultimate round of the Blueband Sports FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship at Ammathi (Kodagu) on Saturday.

Provisional results (leaders):
INRC Overall: Gaurav Gill & Anirudha Rangnekar (57:35.1s)
INRC2: Jason Saldhanha (Arka Motorsports) & Thimmu Uddapanda (59:05.1s).
INRC3: Daraius Shroff (Chettinad Sporting) & Arjun Dheerendra (01:00.44.3s)
Ladies: Anushriya Gulati (Arka Motorsports) & Karan Aukta (01:04:08.0s)

KARNATAKA ROUND UP

Egor Agafonov and Bogdan Bobrov.

Tanushree stars for Karnataka

M. Tanushree (49 and 3/17) helped Karnataka defeat Baroda in the BCCI under-15 girls' one day trophy match at Dehradun.

The scores: Karnataka 154/9 in 35 overs (M. Tanushree 49, K. Harshitha 32, Maitri Maniar 3/9) bt Baroda 79 in 24.3 overs (Anvita Narendra 3/14, R. Tanushree 3/17).

Doubles title for Agafonov-Bobrov

Top-seeded Russian pair Egor Agafonov and Bogdan Bobrov defeated the Indo-American combination of Nitin Kumar Sinha and Nick Chappell 7-5, 6-2 in the doubles title clash of the ITF Kalaburagi Open at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium courts at Kalaburagi here on Saturday.

Other results: Semifinals: Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) bt Dev Javia (Ind) 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; Bogdan Bobrov (Rus) bt Nick Chappell (USA) 6-3, 6-0.

Doubles: Final: Egor Agafonov & Bogdan Bobrov (Rus) bt Nick Chappell (USA) & Nitin Kumar Sinha (Ind) 7-5, 6-2.

TT champions Kalaivanan, Himanshi, and Abhinav.

Kalaivanan claims men's table tennis title

M. Kalaivanan won the men's title in the C.V.L. Shastry Memorial Karnataka state table tennis championship organised by Canara Union held here.

The results: Finals: Men: M. Kalaivanan bt Rohith Shankar 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 13-11, 11-5.

Under-19: Girls: Himanshi Chowdhary bt Neeti Agrawal 1-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-3, 10-12, 12-10.

Boys: Abhinav Murthy bt V.G. Vibhas 10-12, 11-5, 11-13, 11-6, 11-5, 11-8.

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This long-life toned milk, packaged using groundbreaking aseptic technology, boasts an impressive shelf life of 90 days. Not only it is ideal for your regular tea or coffee, but it also proves to be a culinary marvel-perfect for crafting creamy curries and delightful desserts.

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Amul Slim N Trim Milk

Calling all fitness-minded people

This special milk is for all those working to create better versions of themselves. Amul Slim N Trim Milk has only 0.1% fat content, while still retaining all the nutrients of regular milk, like calcium and essential minerals. This is the perfect fit for gym enthusiasts and health-conscious people.

Amul Camel Long-life Milk

The milk that helps manage blood sugar level

It contains denatured insulin-like peptides which may help to manage your blood sugar level. Along with its yummy taste, it contains all necessary vitamins and minerals too. And now, enjoy Amul Camel Milk in a delicious Kesar flavour too.

Amul Shakti Milk

Strength in every sip

It's not just any milk, it is THE milk of the brave and mighty Indian armed forces. It gives our courageous soldiers strength and nourishment as they serve our country.

Exported with love and care

Amul Long-life Milk is not just India's favourite, but enjoyed in the Middle East, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and many other countries. So, savour it on your trips abroad and enjoy your favourite tea or coffee anywhere and everywhere.

Available on:

Amul shop.amul.com | SMART BAZAAR | blinkit India's Last Minute App | SWIGGY instamart HOME NEEDS IN 10 MINUTES | bigbasket A TATA Enterprise | DMart | zepto | Flipkart Grocery | amazon | more | star

Also, available at all Amul Parlours and leading retail stores.

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